

Israel death toll rises to 14

Massacre sets off worst day of Arab riots

From Richard Owen, Halhoul, occupied West Bank

A LONE and apparently mentally unbalanced Israeli gunman yesterday shot and killed seven Arab workers in a roadside field, sparking off serious riots in the occupied territories in which seven more Arabs died as Israeli troops put down the protests.

As the riots spread and the army lost control of parts of Gaza, General Dan Shomron, the Chief of Staff, ordered in reinforcements and went to the area to supervise operations in person.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, immediately condemned the killings at Rishon le Zion, near Tel Aviv. Mr Shamir told the Cabinet: "What happened was a shocking act."

In scenes of violence which were reminiscent of the first days of the intifada two and a half years ago, simmering resentment at Israeli rule boiled over in the sordid refugee camps of the Gaza Strip, from which most of the dead Arab workers came. Thousands of Arabs defied curfews to pour into the streets, piling up barricade after barricade, burning tyres and pelting army patrols with petrol bombs and stones.

United Nations-run hospitals in the Gaza Strip said that at least five Arabs had been shot in the disturbances and more than 400 wounded. Two further Arab deaths were reported in the occupied West Bank. Both Israeli and

Palestinian officials said that yesterday's death toll and the level of rioting made it the worst day of violence since the Arab revolt began. The West Bank deaths were at Halhoul near Hebron and at Kabatiya, near Jenin.

Every day, 120,000 Palestinians travel to Israel from Gaza to work in factories and fields, returning at night. Many of them stand or squat at roadside pick-up points waiting to be hired by Israeli employers.

At one assembly point yesterday, just after 6am, a man in army uniform carrying an M16 rifle emerged from a nearby orchard and approached the 100 or so waiting labourers. Witnesses said he demanded their identity cards and then suddenly opened fire, aiming at the Arabs' heads and chests. Sixteen were wounded in addition to the seven killed.

Police captured the gunman, a local man aged 21 with a history of emotional and psychological problems who had been discharged from the Israeli Army as unfit. He had taken the gun and the uniform from his brother. Police gave no motive, but officials said that it could have been a response to an attack by Arab gunmen on an Israeli army patrol near Hebron last week.

As police sealed off the area, where bloodstains and bullets covered the ground, survivors chanted "Allah-o Akbar" (God is greatest) and "Long live Free Palestine". They complained bitterly that not a single Israeli car driver had stopped to help. Workers from Gaza later returned to the Strip in a convoy of cars and lorries with lights flashing and horns blaring, shouting slogans demanding revenge "in the name of Allah".

In Rishon le Zion (literally "First in Zion"), established in the late 19th century as the first Zionist settlement in Palestine, there was an atmosphere of shock. Founded by the Rothschilds and set in pleasant agricultural surroundings, Rishon le Zion still retains its early ideals. "I never thought this could happen here," one resident said. "We have to live with the Arabs, not stir up more hatred."

President Herzog said the murders were "an abominable and criminal act" at which "every person in the entire nation will shudder". The Government offered condolences to the victims' relatives and vowed to take "necessary steps" to ensure no recurrence. Mr Shmuel Goren, Israel's co-ordinator of activ-

ities in the occupied territories, later visited the wounded survivors in hospital. Mr Rehavam Zeevi, the controversial leader of the far-right Mokedet party, which advocates the deportation of Arabs from Israel to Jordan, also condemned the attack as "the work of a madman".

The British Foreign Office expressed dismay yesterday at the killings. It called on the Israeli security forces and all others who might be involved to exercise maximum restraint and said that the tragedy underlined the need for direct dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians.

In east Jerusalem, 55 Palestinian leaders, headed by Mr Faisal Husseini, began a hunger strike and demanded "international protection" for Palestinians, with Israeli soldiers replaced in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by troops of the United Nations.

"We cannot sit still while they kill us like this," Mr Husseini said. The Palestinian statement said Israel regarded Arab lives as cheap, and said Palestinian lives were "exposed to real danger at every moment and in every place".

It ended: "Long live the Palestine Liberation Organization." The intifada declared a three-day strike in mourning.

Journalists were banned yesterday from entering Gaza, even with an army escort. Mr Shamir appealed to Palestinian Arabs "not to utilize the incident for further bloodshed and violence". But Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, said the turn to extremism among both Arabs and Jews was the direct result of Mr Shamir's failure to pursue the Middle East peace process.

CAIRO: Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO, called yesterday for an urgent session of the UN Security Council to discuss what his organization described as the massacre of Arabs by Israelis.

"Arafat has called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council and has demanded immediate international protection for Palestinians from the massacres," Mr Nabil Shaath, political adviser to Mr Arafat, told a press conference in the Egyptian capital. He added: "We can only pray for God to protect our people so that they can keep their temper."

Mr Arafat, who had talks earlier with President Mubarak on a planned Arab summit later this month, briefed the Egyptian leader.

Photograph, page 8

Broad EC support for sanctions rethink

From Peter Guilford, Parknasilla, Co Kerry

MR DOUGLAS Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is confident that he now has broad support among his European Community partners for a reassessment of the EC's sanctions against South Africa.

Citing Portugal, Spain, Belgium and The Netherlands among others, he said almost all now agreed it was time for a reappraisal of the Community's limited embargo. "We must decide how to pin-point signals of encouragement which we can give," he said.

De Klerk safari, page 10

Wakeham to look after party image

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

PREPARATIONS by the main political parties for the next general election are sharply intensifying with the appointment by the Prime Minister of Mr John Wakeham to improve the Government's image and the launch this week of Labour's alternative policy prospectus.

With speculation again mounting that the election could come as early as next summer, Mrs Margaret Thatcher has turned to Mr Wakeham to perform the role exercised by Lord Whitelaw for many years of providing her with personal and, if necessary, unpalatable, advice across the range of policies.

Although officially he has been appointed to co-ordinate the Government's information services, a position held by Lord Whitelaw until his retirement two years ago, it emerged yesterday that, like the former deputy prime minister, his influence on the policy and direction of the Government will be far broader.

The attraction to Mrs Thatcher of having a minister like Mr Wakeham, a former whip and Commons leader who has no leadership ambitions, in such an important role was being emphasized strongly by senior ministers. It has been a frequent complaint of Tory MPs that Lord Whitelaw's influence has been much missed during the recent period of troubles for the Government.

He is, like Lord Whitelaw, expected to sit in on all key Cabinet committee discussions, including the group recently set up under Mrs Thatcher's chairmanship to review the operation of the poll.

Mr Wakeham's ability to give Mrs Thatcher the detached view is underlined by the recent suggestions that he is even considering retirement from the Commons at the next election.

Continued on page 22, col 1
Profile, page 2
To the rescue, page 12
Diary, 12

Dutch demand review of London bank site

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE Dutch Government is demanding a review of European Community procedures after the decision at the weekend to site the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London instead of Amsterdam.

The Dutch have accused Britain and France of presenting the smaller EC member countries with a fait accompli over the bank's siting and leadership after forming a pact with West Germany and Italy at the Group of Seven economic meeting in Washington last weekend.

In return for establishing the bank in the City—creating up to 1,000 jobs—Britain supported the candidacy of M Jacques Attali, the former French presidential adviser, as its head. The British Government was previously believed to back the rival claim of Mr Onno Ruding, the former Dutch finance minister.

Early yesterday there were fears that the Dutch would lead a rebellion among the smaller EC members to try to block the foundation of the

EBRD. But later Mr Hans van der Broek, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said he would not obstruct the bank's development, but treat the incident as a lesson on how decisions should be taken in the future.

Mr John Major, the British Chancellor, played down the complaints: "There was an overwhelming majority of votes cast for London," he said, "a consensus was reached that the bank will come to London and indeed it will. For the first time London will have a really large international organization."

Mr van der Broek said in an interview on BBC radio: "What was most distressing is that we had the clear feeling here that a procedure was being followed where the four largest countries of the Community had simply made an agreement among themselves."

"This is an unacceptable course of events and we were rather appalled by it. A clear majority of the community was not amused by this type of

procedure. "We have agreed to look at our practices about the determination of what is the most suitable location for community institutions," Mr van der Broek added. "These type of disputes occur and we should draw lessons from them."

A Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said the country was worried that a monopoly of power was being formed within the Community. Indeed Mr van der Broek is believed to have put this point forcefully at an informal meeting of EC foreign ministers near Cork in Ireland at the weekend.

London emerged as the clear favourite site for the new bank in an informal ballot of delegates, gaining 23 votes compared to five for both Amsterdam and Copenhagen, and just one for Prague. Likewise, support was strong for M Attali, who gained 32 votes, against eight for Mr Ruding.

Canary Wharf, page 23

Election fever grips Romania

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

MILLIONS of Romanians queued to vote yesterday in a controversial general election which all early predictions were agreed would show greater support for former leading members of the Communist Party than elsewhere among the newly-liberated nations of Eastern Europe.

The public's appetite to vote in the first free election for 53 years took electoral officials by surprise and they delayed the closure of polling stations after it became clear that all Romanians could not cast their votes by the 11 pm deadline.

For the most part orderly lines filed up outside polling stations in all parts of a country which has an electorate of 16 million. By early evening, there had been few reports of electoral breaches reaching Bucharest, although many voters were confused by unfamiliar voting procedures and not all were clear about the distinctions between the 72 parties who fielded candidates.

Corruption, comedy, page 9

Relay rescue for injured sailor

By Lisa Jenkins

AN AIR-SEA rescue was underway last night in the Atlantic to pick up a seriously ill crewman in the closing stages of the Whitbread Round the World Race. Mr Andrew Dibsdall, aged 27, was diagnosed by doctors over a radio link to the yacht Liverpool Enterprise as showing signs of rejecting a kidney transplanted four years ago.

With the yacht 640 miles south west of Land's End out of range of search and rescue helicopters, the RAF Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Plymouth devised a plan to reach Mr Dibsdall by using Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship HMS Argus, on manoeuvres in the Western Reaches, as a refuelling point.

An RAF Sea King helicopter took off from RAF Brawdy, in South Wales, with a four man crew, at 2.30pm. It

refuelled at Cork, southern Ireland, and again on HMS Argus, a helicopter training vessel, which headed for the yacht at a speed of 20 knots. Squadron Leader John Raglan, commanding the co-ordination centre, said: "The patient is very lucky that there was a vessel in the area. He said that the yacht had used her engines, disqualifying her from continuing in the race."

A doctor picked up en route was deciding if Mr Dibsdall should be finally taken to hospital in Ireland or continue to one in England.

Mr Dibsdall, an electronics engineer from Winchester, Hampshire, was one of three crew of the yacht, skippered by Mr Bob Salmon, involved in an accident last week.

Photograph, page 3
Full report, page 38

Jobs fear over 10% pay rises

The Government is faced with increasing pay-led inflationary pressure as unions and companies show no sign of heeding warnings from the Prime Minister that rises edging towards and beyond 10 per cent will decrease competitiveness and lead to job losses.

Page 2

Graf loses

Steffi Graf lost to Monica Seles, of Yugoslavia, 6-4, 6-3 in the German Open, ending her unbeaten run of 66 single match wins.

Page 38

Off watch

Some chief constables are blocking creation of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, says the charity, Crime Concern.

Education move

The work of one of the Training and Enterprise Councils, the independently run bodies that have taken over training responsibility from the Training Agency, is described in today's Education section.

Pages 16, 17

Saatchi threat

Saatchi & Saatchi has confirmed that its London agency is considering legal action against eight employees who walked out last week to form a rival agency.

Page 23

Arts pages

Arts reviews and previews in The Times will now appear in a new format immediately before the television and radio page.

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The 'k' in Camborne rouses Cornish passions

By Jamie Dettmer

ENGLISH tourists may remark on the quaintness of the road signs around the Cornish town of Camborne this summer. But for some local people the signs are more than merely offensive: death threats to the instigator—a mild-mannered teacher from Dagenham—have been issued.

The dispute turns on the use of the letter "K". Underneath the English word of Camborne on the signs can now be read the "Cornish"—Kammbronn. The town council altered the signs a few months ago, persuaded by the arguments of Mr John King, a member of the Cornish Language Board. He is a leading exponent of Phonemic Cornish, a revived form of the language based on a computer-devised phonetic spelling system and a theoretical reconstruction



tion of medieval pronunciation. He believes that "k" denotes the sound medieval Cornishmen would have used for the "c" in Camborne.

Some scholars say that the last Cornish speaker was Dolly Pentreath, who died in 1777 in Mousehole, near Penzance. She was said to be very ignorant, swearing freely. "I will not speak English, you ugly, black toad," she once remarked.

Thus inspired, a revival is under way. Several thousand people are now learning Cornish, some state schools are teaching it and there is a GCSE exam in the language. But what kind of Cornish should it be? The Cornish Language Board, set up in 1967 with local authority support, advocates the use of Phonemic Cornish, which abandons the letter "c" and substitutes "k" and "s" for hard and soft sounds. It is fiercely opposed by disparate groups of speakers who use Unified Cornish, a revived form of the language devised by a linguist, Mr Richard Morton Nance, in the 1920s.

Then there is Native Cornish, used by the Cornish Language Council, run by Mr Richard Gelland, a retired teacher, and his wife, Jan. They say their version is the Cornish spoken in the 1700s.

Mr King says the two other groups

exclude people from learning the language by the methods they employ. "Some of them have political motives and argue about the Cornishness of the blood. If the language is to be widely spoken, then it has to be standardized."

In the midst of this row, eight children are being brought up bilingually. One of them is Tristan Jenkin, aged 20 months, whose mother Loveday Jenkin runs a Cornish resources centre and advocates the use of Phonemic Cornish. Her father, Richard Jenkin, was instrumental in the revival of Unified Cornish.

Tristan's first word—in either language—was Tykki Dyw, Cornish for butterfly. Its literal meaning is "beautiful little thing of God".

Coastal threat, page 4



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King says defence cuts should be sensible not radical

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

MR TOM KING, the Secretary of State for Defence, plans to warn Cabinet colleagues that demands for radical cuts in Britain's armed forces should be rejected in favour of "sensible changes", it has been disclosed.

Mr King's ultra-cautious approach to defence cuts, shared by the Prime Minister, is coming under increasing pressure from within the Ministry of Defence itself, as well as from the Treasury.

The most radical proposals for restructuring the services, as a response to the changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, have been made in a confidential paper submitted more than three months ago by Mr Alan Clark, the Minister of State for Defence Procure-

ment. The details have been leaked, much to the embarrassment of Mr King. In his paper, circulated to Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other ministers, including Mr King, Mr Clark proposed that the Royal Navy's fleet of destroyers and frigates should be cut from 48 to 32. Other suggestions were that the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) should be drastically reduced; infantry battalions should be cut from 55 to 32; costly new anti-tank technology for the British Army of the Rhine, such as the Trigat system now under development, should be cancelled; specialist forces such as the Parachute Regiment and Royal Marines should be expanded; and the 140,000 civilian staff at the MoD should be halved.

Mr Clark has denied that his radical proposals have created a personal rift

with Mr King, but admits there are differences in approach towards the present review, known in the MoD as the "options for change" study.

One Whitehall official said Mr Clark's contribution was viewed as being that of a "strawman paper" — a list of radical ideas "put up to see how far they will run". However, it is clear that Mr Clark's intervention early on in the review will provide further ammunition for the Treasury, which is also keen to cut back heavily on the MoD's £21 billion budget over the next few years.

Mr King, however, remains firmly of the view that the time for radical cuts has not yet arrived. After five days in the Soviet Union last week, he said: "I hope to make sensible changes, but only on the basis that we can maintain our defences." This is the line he will take

with his ministerial colleagues when the Cabinet's Overseas and Defence Committee, chaired by Mrs Thatcher, meets to discuss the MoD's options for change next month.

A "status report" will be presented to the Cabinet Committee, outlining the variety of views expressed during the six-month review, including those of Mr Clark. Key officials involved in overseeing the review are General Sir Richard Vincent, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, who is to take over the top military job at the MoD next year, and Mr Richard Mottram, Deputy Under-Secretary (Policy).

Mr Clark has been a member of the informal group of ministers, who have been monitoring the MoD review. Others include Mrs Thatcher, Mr King, Mr John Major, the Chancellor, and Mr

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. MoD sources emphasized that the Cabinet committee meeting next month would not produce a decision on how the armed forces should be restructured. It would merely discuss the various proposals at hand. A final decision is not expected for some time.

In any event, it will be postponed until after a Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty has been signed between Nato and the Warsaw Pact. Such an agreement will automatically involve cuts in British tanks and other heavy armaments and, indirectly, personnel based in West Germany. These cuts will have to be taken into account in the Government's overall strategy for Britain's forces.

There is also a heated debate about the need for a fourth Trident submarine. Cancellation of the fourth boat would

save £500 million. However, it seems unlikely that Mrs Thatcher will agree, since it has been emphasized by the Royal Navy that, to maintain the guarantee of having at least one ballistic missile submarine on patrol, four will be needed. Nevertheless, the fourth Trident remains part of the options for change reviewed. At present two Trident submarines are under construction, a third is expected to be ordered this summer and the fourth next year.

The key recommendation in the MoD review is expected to be that Britain will need to have light flexible forces. The Pentagon, in Washington, has already indicated that this is the path it also intends to follow. In terms of conventional arms, this means far less emphasis on heavy armaments such as main battle tanks and artillery.

JULIAN HERBERT

Thatcher warnings on pay-led inflation fall on deaf ears

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

THE Government was yesterday faced with increasing pay-led inflationary pressure, as unions and employers showed no sign of heeding the Prime Minister's warnings that rises up to and beyond 10 per cent will cut competitiveness and lead to job losses.

The acceptance last week of a 10.2 per cent pay deal, the largest in the public sector, by electricity supply workers was an indication to the Govern-

ment that the pay round which began in the autumn could still threaten disruption in vital areas.

Now, leaders of more than 700,000 local government workers have rejected an 8 per cent offer, which fell far short of their 14 per cent demand. ICI staff have also turned down a 9.4 per cent increase in April, and yesterday negotiations on behalf of 600,000 construction workers resumed after their

rejection of a 9.6 per cent offer. In the health service, the Government is faced with confrontation and strike ballots after the rejection of pay offers of up to 7.5 per cent by union leaders representing 250,000 workers.

Ever since 33,000 Ford workers set the pace by accepting a 10.2 per cent increase in April, other unions have made it clear that is the going rate. Their determination to "maintain the living standards" of their members by at least matching the Retail Price Index, now running at 9.4 per cent, has not been diminished by last month's figures, which showed that the longest period of declining unemployment since the Second World War had ended. In their claims, unions are now routinely blaming "government mismanagement" of the economy and citing the poll tax as their reason for demanding rises far higher than those of their colleagues in Japan, the United States, France and Germany.

In a report published today, Incomes Data Services, a research service on employment issues, said higher pay settlements are not simply a response to higher inflation. The research service said substantial awards in companies like Marks & Spencer (26 per cent over three years) Safeway (more than 15 per cent for in excess of 5,000 staff) and Tesco (16 per cent for some staff) are only partly due to the increased cost of living.

They claim those awards owe more to worries about "equal value" pay claims from female employees and competition from the falling number of young people, rather than wider concerns about inflation. The research service said that among April pay reviews it had monitored, more than three quarters had given basic pay rises of 8 per cent or more.

Warning of new 'brain drain'

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

A NEW and more damaging form of the "brain drain" is about to hit British universities as "raiders" from foreign institutions seek to recruit their most talented academics, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors said yesterday.

In a memorandum to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, the committee said that salaries and working conditions for academics must be improved to counter higher salaries offered abroad. As many as 17,000 lecturing posts and fellowships could be available for British and European academics in the United States, the committee said.

The inability of British universities to recruit and retain high-quality enthusiastic staff was "a major obstacle" to government plans for the expansion of higher education.

Education, pages 16, 17
Independent education, page 28



Mr David Powell, chairman of the Friends of President, taking a shine to a statue of James Brindley, the 18th-century canal pioneer, which was loaded yesterday on to the steam narrowboat President, on which it will tour until its travelling in Stoke-on-Trent in July

Labour considers 'London supremo'

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour Party leadership is to consider appointing a political "supremo" to strengthen its organization in London and tackle the handful of troublemakers that blighted the party's performance in the local elections.

Senior party figures believe that many of the problems that led to Labour's poor results in some council areas in the capital, notably Ealing, Brent and Hillingdon, could have been countered by a stronger political lead from the party organization in London. There is criticism among Labour leaders about the performance of the party's London regional office. They accept that other factors were the performance of some Labour councils, changes in the capital's demography, memories of the "loony left" and low poll taxes in Wandsworth and Westminster.

Party leaders believe that the appointment of a party "heavyweight", based at party headquarters, with the ability to give early warning of problem areas is a vital part of moves to deal with the so-called "London effect". He or she would be a senior party official.

The plan is one of several likely to result from a meeting of Labour's organization committee today. It would then be considered by Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, who has been asked by Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, to analyse Labour's performance in London and propose action to prevent a repetition of its patchy performance on May 3.

Dr Cunningham said yesterday that he was "attracted to the idea that we should maximize the value to the party of the considerable expenditure we already put into political organization in London".

In a paper to the Association of London Authorities' Labour group last week, Miss Margaret Hodge, its leader, criticized the quality of service of some Labour councils.

Banana skin spotter with a talent for anticipation

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE appointment of Mr John Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy, as the cabinet minister responsible for co-ordinating government information services marks a significant stage in preparation for the next election.

His role is to avoid breakdowns in planning and communication such as when the budget announcement of poll tax concessions led to an outcry from the Scots, who had already endured the tax for a year and who were not initially offered any matching, back-dated concessions.

Mr Wakeham will also be expected to head off incidents such as the tour of the Commons tea-rooms by Mr Mark Lennox-Boyd, the Prime Minister's PPS, on the eve of the local government elections. That episode all but wrecked the Tory election strategy by raising as many doubts about the future of the tax under a Conservative government as there were about Labour's mooted alternatives.

He will be expected to spot in advance and prevent such gaffes as the public announcement that three senior ministers — Mr Kenneth Clarke, Mr David Waddington and Mr John MacGregor — were to have individual image minders. That move was rapidly scotched when Mr Bernard Ingham, as head of

the government information service, sent a stinging letter to Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, but only after the initial damage had been done.

The appointment of Mr Wakeham meets two concerns in Tory ranks. The Government has lately been seen to be scrambling in reaction to events rather than controlling them and setting the political agenda. In addition, Mr Ingham's role in doubling up responsibility for co-ordination of government information with his duties as the Prime Minister's press secretary has given him more power than seems appropriate.

The Wakeham appoint-



Mr Wakeham: Cabinet role in planning

Ulster initiative at critical stage

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government's latest initiative on political progress in Northern Ireland reaches a critical stage tomorrow when Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, meets Mr Ian Paisley and Mr James Molyneux, the two Unionist leaders, in London.

With Mr Brooke expected to resist a Unionist demand that the secretariat that services the Anglo-Irish Agreement be completely suspended, and with the Unionist position stiffened by the failure of the Conservative candidate in the Upper Bann by-election last week, both sides are cautious about the prospect for a successful outcome.

At their meeting 10 days ago, Mr Brooke emphasized that the Government was prepared to consider replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, and to suspend for a specified period meetings of the Anglo-Irish conference, to persuade the Unionists to join inter-party talks in Northern Ireland.

Open: Tomorrow and Wednesday, 8am to 8pm, private view for Royal Horticultural Society members. Thursday 8am to 8pm. £15 for full-day ticket or £7 after 4pm. Friday, 8am to 5pm, ticket £12. For credit card bookings telephone 081-748 1414. The show information line, 071-828 1744 (24 hours) provides admission details and ticket availability. ● The number of vegetable growers

ment is all of a piece with the Prime Minister's adoption of a less hectoring manner in the Commons and a gentler line on Europe. He is a man known for his ability to anticipate and to steer a way around difficulties rather than for taking battles head on. He will, however, fight in the open when he needs to, as when his Colchester South and Maldon constituency was threatened with becoming a nuclear test dumping site and he was allowed special dispensation to fight against such developments.

At first sight, Mr Wakeham seems a curious choice for the post of banana-skin spotter. As Leader of the Commons, answering questions for the Prime Minister in her absence, he was responsible for one of last year's most notorious ministerial howlers. MPs laughed when he proclaimed that Mrs Thatcher could not be present that day because she was "making herself available to Mr Gorbachev". He also fluffed badly on the BBC's *Election Call* at the last election, when a lady from the North-east countered his bland claims about living standards with details of how her household had not had an evening out for four years or a holiday for eight.

Mrs Thatcher accepts that Mr Wakeham's qualities are not displayed at the dispatch box or on the public platform. Since his period as a supremely accomplished chief whip from 1983 to 1987, she has valued him, as do other senior colleagues, as the imperturbable fixer behind the scenes, a diffuser of rebellions and the man who hoists the storm cones early. His biggest successes are the ones we will never learn about.

Since his period as Leader of the Commons, Mr Wakeham, a chartered accountant who had to give up more than 50 directorships on first becoming a minister, has pleased the Prime Minister by sorting out the tangles over electricity privatization.

Mr Wakeham is now installed in place as the man who will be expected to say "yes, but prime minister ..." and to engineer the occasional tactful change of course.

Student in France was strangled

THE parents of Miss Joanna Parrish, the British student, aged 20, whose naked body was found in a French river on Thursday, said yesterday they would fly to France early this week, as police stepped up their search for her killer.

Mr Roger Parrish, aged 46, and his wife, Pauline, of Newnham-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, are in contact with French police, who have disclosed that Miss Parrish had been struck with a poker and strangled on Wednesday night during a violent struggle at her flat in Auxerre.

They believe she was murdered by a man who answered an advertisement she had placed in the local paper offering English lessons. Divers continued their search of the River Yonne.

Four killed in M25 air crash

A student pilot and his instructor were among four people killed when two light aircraft collided on the M25 near Reigate, Surrey, police said yesterday. The victims have not been positively identified.

Police do not know whether the student was at the controls of the Piper Cherokee, owned by Redhill Flying Club, which collided with a 1930s Tiger Moth on Saturday. Three of the dead were in the Piper.

Cave divers fail

Two leading cave divers, Richard Stevenson and Rob Palmer, last night failed to find a fabled "lost cave" along an uncharted route 350ft under the Mendips Hills at Cheddar Gorge, Somerset.

Body recovered

The body of Mr Brian Peplow, aged 26, a fisherman from Highbridge, Somerset, who disappeared with his father, also named Brian, while laying nets in the Bristol Channel a week ago, was recovered from the sea by the Minehead lifeboat yesterday. His father's body has not been found.

Beef demand

Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday that more must be done to allay concern over "mad cow" disease and convince people that British beef was safe to eat. He said extra resources should be used to check that abattoirs obeyed beef handling rules.

Bond winners

Winners of the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, 15VK 154472 (Kent); £50,000, 22PN 787137 (Nottingham); £25,000, 23CZ 235367 (Leicestershire).

Saving The Times overseas
Australia \$2.75; Belgium \$4.00; Canada \$2.75; Denmark \$4.00; France \$4.00; Germany \$4.00; Greece \$4.00; Hong Kong \$4.00; India \$4.00; Italy \$4.00; Japan \$4.00; Korea \$4.00; Malaysia \$4.00; Mexico \$4.00; New Zealand \$4.00; Norway \$4.00; Philippines \$4.00; Singapore \$4.00; South Africa \$4.00; Sweden \$4.00; Switzerland \$4.00; Taiwan \$4.00; Thailand \$4.00; USA \$2.50.

from The Mouth of The Lough.



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UPON PAYING a visit to your esteemed wines and spirits merchant with the avowed intention of obtaining a bottle of Aberlour Single Malt Whisky, do not be alarmed or, much less, offended, to discover the gimlet-eyed gent piercing your nasal apertures with a fletto stare.

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Allow us to explain. Regrettably, many noses, particularly of the large and bulbous variety, are sorely ill-equipped to gain full benefit, an excess of air being admitted with the resultant dilution of the subtle malt scent.

Not that we are decrying this type of nose *per se*. It has its purposes. It is, for example, excellent for truffling, without the necessity of porcine assistance.

Each cask of Aberlour has its own nose, in a sense, in the form of a great bung, made of cork not wood, through which it inhales the fresh pine air of the Highlands in the course of its ten year slumber in the vast Aberlour cellars.

And it is the thin reedy nostrils of the CLASSIC ROMAN AQUILINE that are, of course, best equipped for transporting this aroma, pure and untrammelled.

In sum, we would implore you, gentle reader, to forbear from venting an excess of ire upon your master merchant should he recommend to you a somewhat coarser alternative.

After all, where malt whisky is concerned, it is of the essence to forge a happy marriage between man & whiff.

ABERLOUR
10 YEARS OLD

SINGLE SPEYSIDE MALT

Chelsea show promotes gardening conservation

By Alan Toogood

THE 77th Chelsea Flower Show which opens tomorrow in London will embrace many topical aspects of gardening and conservation.

A three-and-a-half acre marquee will be filled with hardy and tropical plants, roses, fruits and vegetables. Trees will feature strongly in the wake of severe storm damage. Hillier Nurseries, of Ampfield, Hampshire, is among the few nurseries able to supply large trees and it is staging an avenue of broad leaved species in containers from 10 to 20ft high.

Notcutts Nurseries, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, will feature flowering Japanese cherries (held back in a cold store) while Ballerina Trees, of Trumpington, Cambridge, are staging

new columnar fruit trees in an avenue. New roses will be prominent with Mattocks Roses, of Nuneham Courtenay, Oxford, featuring popular ground-cover roses, including two of the latest varieties (Norfolk and Northamptonshire) in the new long-flowering country series. Interest in growing plants in tubs on patios remains strong and Blooms of Bressingham, Norfolk, will display labour-saving plants in containers.

The scientific and educational section will cover subjects from endangered plants world-wide (Botanic Gardens Conservation Secretariat of Kew, Surrey), the medicinal use of oil extracted from the seeds of the Evening Primrose (Efamol, of Guildford, Surrey), to an alternative

to peat, using coconut fibre (Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, Surrey) and understanding trees (Tree Register of the British Isles, of Bletchingley, Surrey). Gardens in the open include The Sunday Times Beginner's Garden, which looks attractive at the outset with minimum investment.

Open: Tomorrow and Wednesday, 8am to 8pm, private view for Royal Horticultural Society members. Thursday 8am to 8pm. £15 for full-day ticket or £7 after 4pm. Friday, 8am to 5pm, ticket £12. For credit card bookings telephone 081-748 1414. The show information line, 071-828 1744 (24 hours) provides admission details and ticket availability. ● The number of vegetable growers

abandoning chemical pesticides and artificial fertilisers in favour of organic alternatives has more than doubled in the past six years, it was disclosed in a survey published yesterday (Tom Giles writes).

According to a report by the magazine *Gardening from Which?*, published by the Consumers' Association, nearly one in 10 gardeners said they now grow their own vegetables to avoid produce tainted by chemicals, compared to 4 per cent in 1986.

Nearly half of 1,300 gardeners questioned said they considered themselves to be "almost organic", using pesticides and chemicals only as a last resort. Six years ago, less than a third had said they used organic gardening methods.

150 من الأصل

Police are obstructing watch plan, charity says

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

SOME chief constables are blocking creation of Neighbourhood Watch schemes because of the growing burden that the community-based crime prevention initiative is placing on police resources, it was claimed yesterday.

The charity Crime Concern says that most police forces believe that Neighbourhood Watch, involving 81,000 schemes covering 10 million people in four million households, can contribute to reducing property offences and easing public anxieties about crime. Research conducted by the charity, however, indicates that many chief constables are concerned about the increasing demands that the initiative is placing on their staff.

Concern has reached the stage where a few forces are now opposing residents' calls for new schemes to be established, the charity says.

Yesterday Mr Sohail Husain, head of the charity's Neighbourhood Watch unit,

who declined to name the forces allegedly being obstructive, said that the opposition was generally voiced in a "fairly subtle way".

"In some cases, the police will erect certain hurdles, like insisting that they are presented with a list of residents who will attend the launch meeting of the scheme," he said. "In others, they express sympathy with the idea, but say they have not got the staff to support it."

A report by the charity says that police hopes that the schemes would become more self-sustaining have proved false; instead, demands on police time have risen roughly in line with the growth of Neighbourhood Watch, which began in 1982. The Home Office, which sees the initiative as the jewel in an expanding crown of crime prevention projects, thinks that there may be as many as 120,000 schemes by the mid-1990s.

The Neighbourhood Watch schemes seek to unite residents and police in fighting burglaries and vandalism. Residents improve the security of their homes and watch neighbours' property, and police maintain beat patrols and advise households on preventive tactics and local crime patterns.

Most schemes are in suburban, middle-class areas, where there is some evidence to suggest that they can reduce property offences. Attempts to spread the initiative to poorer urban areas have generally foundered because of a lack of community integration and residents' suspicions about co-operating with the police.

Crime Concern says that active police support is vital if schemes are to flourish. Residents, it says, need to attend periodic police briefings, and to see their beat officer patrolling their area regularly.

However, its report says that some beat officers now have to serve over 100 schemes, and the amount of back-up administration involved has mushroomed everywhere.

Forces wishing to ease the burden on beat officers might, it suggests, consider appointing part-time or full-time administrators at divisional or sub-divisional level to provide a more efficient source of support. However, the report accepts that this would entail enlarging crime prevention budgets.

Other responses, it says, might be the use of special constables to provide back-up services, the development of district and county federations of watch schemes and greater co-operation with crime prevention panels.

Key prison reforms 'neglected'

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

THE jail riots that erupted this spring may never have occurred if the Home Office had implemented some of the recommendations made by earlier official inquiries into the penal system, a penal reform group claims today.

A string of reform proposals arose from the prison disturbances of 1986, 1988 and 1989, but none of the key ones was acted on, according to a report by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

The association suggests the department's failure to introduce a minimum code of standards covering prison conditions and to set up a directorate to oversee the management of remand prisoners may have been particularly critical; had those recommendations been adopted inmates might have been able to look forward to sharply improved regimes.

Miss Vivien Stern, the association's director, says: "If these changes had been implemented the riots at Strangeways and other prisons would have been less likely. Riots are much rarer in prison systems which have more civilized conditions, more active regimes and a greater emphasis on prisoners' rights."

Statement of faith omits Virgin Birth

By Kerry Gill

MEMBERS of the Church of Scotland are to be asked to consider adopting a shorter Statement of Christian Faith in which there is no mention of the Virgin Birth. It does, however, include the principle of the Resurrection.

After discussion of the proposed statement at the church's general assembly, meeting in Glasgow yesterday for the first time since 1638, the issue will be put to congregations and presbyteries for consultation. The statement, the result of four years' deliberation by a working party, is believed to be the first since a longer version was put to the assembly in the 1930s.

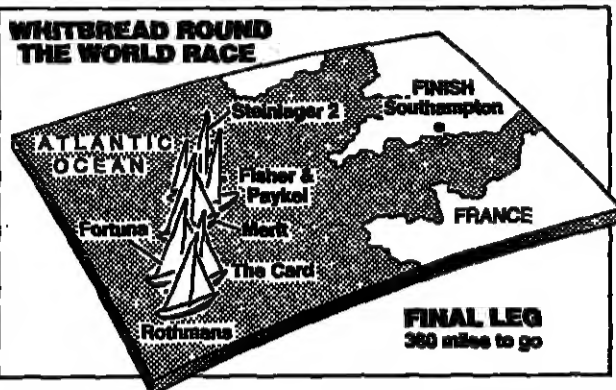
A new statement was requested by the General Assembly in 1986 after concern over aspects of the Westminster Confession of Faith drawn up in 1648.

The version which will be discussed among the faithful, however, is not designed to

replace the Westminster Confession. Rather, it is seen as a concise statement that can readily be used in day-to-day worship and one that will bind congregations.

The proposed statement is just over 300 words long. The section dealing with Christ reads: "We confess Jesus Christ, God the Son; in love, by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became one of us; to fulfil the promise to Israel and to reconcile the world with God. In His life He was obedient to His Father's will. He forgave sinners, brought hope to the lost, healed the sick and set free those who were oppressed. In His death on the cross He bore the sin of the world; on the third day He was raised from death by the power of God. He triumphed over all the powers of evil; now He reigns in heaven, sharing His risen life with us."

The assembly will reconvene today in Edinburgh.



Ten-year breast cancer trials to involve 35,000

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A UNIQUE experiment in preventive medicine to combat breast cancer, involving trials among 30,000 volunteers, has been agreed by the main cancer research groups.

The British Co-ordinating Committee on Cancer Research, incorporating the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the Cancer Research Campaign and the Medical Research Council, has agreed on two trials, each taking up to 10 years at a total cost of £4 million. One trial will need 5,000 volunteers and the other 25,000.

The plan is to test whether an established anti-hormone drug called tamoxifen, used to treat breast cancer and other tumours, might also give protection to women who might be more predisposed to develop the disease.

Dr Jack Cuzick, an epidemiologist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and chairman of the tamoxifen working party, said yesterday the possibility of using the drug as the basis of a preventive pill was based on two observations: that women treated with the agent were less likely to develop cancer of their healthy breast, and that the best protection seemed to depend on how early in the course of the disease the treatment had started with tamoxifen.

He said doctors were cautious about embarking on research that would mean giving people a daily dose of a medicine as a possible prophylactic for five years. Survival rates in breast cancer have improved by 30 per cent among women receiving treatments with tamoxifen, but that advance is offset by an increased incidence of the disease in Britain, Dr Cuzick says.

While the cause remains in doubt, the influence of hormones in stimulating the growth of tumours of the breast, ovaries and uterus was recognized decades ago. The circumstances under which

STEINLAGER 2 (above) holding a tentative two-mile advantage over her New Zealand rival, Fisher & Paykel, but heading north-east above Land's End, as the leading yachts in the Whitbread Round the World Race closed to within 350 miles of Southampton yesterday. Light head winds promised to produce a tense finish to the final leg of the race (Barry Pichall writes). Six yachts, led narrowly by Steinlager 2, were stretched out along the

same line of longitude mid-way between the western tip of Ireland, and France. Meanwhile 100 miles south, a second group led by Britain's leading boat, Rothmans, was hoping for an expected breeze which would take them to the Cornish coast. The leaders are expected to reach the finish early tomorrow followed by the division three yachts, which include Maiden, the all-women British entry, skippered by Tracy Edwards, on Thursday.

London wins loan of art treasures

By Simon Tait

THE National Gallery, London, has beaten competition from Madrid, Paris, Geneva and New York, it is understood, to obtain one of the world's finest private art collections on a five-year loan that may become permanent.

Mr Heinz Berggruen, the Geneva-based collector has agreed to lend 72 works, including a group of Cézannes, two Van Goghs, 14 Seurats, masterpieces by Braque and Miró and no fewer than 40 Picassos. Estimates of the collection's value are little more than guesses, but experts believe that a starting point would be at least £250 million.

The paintings, for which the National

Gallery has been chosen partly because of the French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collection there, will go on show in the winter in refurbished rooms. They will first be seen in an exhibition of their own. Lord Rothschild, chairman of the gallery trustees, said: "It is one of the most extraordinarily exciting things to happen in the art field in this country. It makes up for the disappointment of not getting the other great private collection, Baron Thyssen's, two years ago and is in many ways more interesting because our collections are so very weak in the areas of modern art this loan represents."

Mr Berggruen, a Berlin-born American citizen who left Nazi Germany in

1936 to study art in the United States, returned to Europe after the war and set up as an art dealer in Paris. Now 75, and retired, he lives in Geneva, but is a frequent visitor to London.

Mr Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, said: "When this collection is combined with the National Gallery paintings, the British public will be able to enjoy the finest groups of Cézannes and Seurats on display anywhere."

Lord Rothschild said that it was hoped that the collection may be given a permanent home in the National Gallery "though we have been given no concrete reason to hope that".

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Mellor move on cult broadcast curb

By John Lewis

MR DAVID Mellor, the minister responsible for broadcasting, is to have urgent talks about how religious broadcasting is to be opened up in Britain without letting in extreme religious cults.

He is to have new discussions with Mr Michael Alison, the Conservative MP for Selby, who is co-ordinator for the Christian group on the new freedom to be offered to religious groups to put over their own distinctive messages to listeners and viewers.

The minister has announced that he is to scrap the obligation on religious organizations, who will be able to acquire their own radio and television stations, not to editorialize or give undue prominence to their own beliefs. That, it was claimed, would have stopped the Church of England broadcasting its

services. Instead, he is to require the organizations to be "responsible" and "not exploitative".

He has to work out with Mr Alison and others the amendment to be introduced in the Lords, which begins its consideration of the Broadcasting Bill on June 5. He will also discuss the code of practice to be used by the new Independent Television Commission in agreeing to religious broadcasting.

MPs believe that as a result of the changes agreed by the Government there is now likely to be a revolution in religious broadcasting. Mr Mellor has written into the Bill a requirement that Channel 3 and 5 must carry religious programmes. Then the legislation allows religious bodies, for the first time, to own or hold franchises for local radio and cable or microwave television stations and those satellite television channels based outside Britain. Mr Alison said

yesterday that the changes would mean "that restrictions which have hitherto stopped Christian or religious groups apostrophizing, so to speak, and would have stopped John Wesley ever preaching, have been removed. What has happened, taken in the round, is a huge turn-around by Government from the Bill in the form it was first presented."

Mr Alison, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, said the Christian group was content to "sell its wares alongside the Buddhist and Islamic broadcasters if they want to raise money and acquire channels or broadcast on sound radio. Although we regard the country as essentially Christian, we don't see why we should try to proscribe exclusivity where choice is of the essence."

There may still be some differences with the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, chairman of the Central Religious Advisory Council.

Timeshare agents switch mail base to beat UK laws

By David Sapsed

TIMESHARE developers have switched tactics by moving their base of operations to the United States for a new drive aimed at the British market, using promotions the Advertising Standards Authority brands as "peculiarly offensive and intrusive".

The move to North America as the source for mailshots — invariably informing wives that they have won a valuable prize in a free draw — is believed to be a direct result of pressure from the timeshare operators own, embattled trade organization which wants developers to clean up an act that has shamed the industry.

Next month the office of fair trading is expected to produce a report proposing legislation to crack down on unscrupulous techniques, and it is believed that the Royal Mail is ready to ban handling houses dealing with such mailshots.

A spokesman for the Consumers' Association said: "We have long criticized these promotions. A small proportion has always originated from the States, but, just recently there has been a noticeable upsurge. It seems to be a fresh attempt to get people to actually take notice of this junk mail."

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) insisted yesterday that the move to the US

would not make timeshare companies immune from action in Britain. "If that is the plan, then it will fail. We are prepared to take action against companies with offices in Britain and, even though it is essentially outside our remit, against firms based outside the country," a spokeswoman said.

Amid mounting criticism of the tactics employed by some of the companies, the Timeshare Developers' Association has undertaken to ensure that all its members' promotions comply with the British Code of Advertising Practices. Far from all developers, however, belong to the association. The timeshare mailshots, according to the ASA, "tend to be less than frank".

The authority says: "Typically, they are coy about what product they are actually trying to sell — some merely invite recipients to come along to an exhibition or presentation with the offer of apparently lavish free gifts. Typically they are also less than completely frank about how the gifts are awarded or how they are valued."

The ASA has condemned the excesses of the mailshots and is pressing for a much greater role for the Royal Mail in controlling them. "There is evidence that, because the trade bodies are insisting on improving standards, some advertisers are resorting to mail from outside the UK.

The Royal Mail are in a difficult position, but we foresee them insisting that handling houses must observe certain rules if they are to go on using the postal services," the authority said.

The flood of mailshots from the US mainly originates from accommodation addresses in Washington, DC. The promotions usually offer couples the chance of winning a car or other valuable prizes simply by attending a 90-minute or two-hour holiday presentation. Rarely is the word timeshare mentioned, and even when the minimum, guaranteed prize is a colour television, couples often "win" something which is supposedly more valuable — such as a voucher for air travel or for a car-phone — only to find the prize entails paying for services or facilities provided by companies linked to the timeshare operation.

● A union leader yesterday urged Labour to put up the price of first-class stamps in line with inflation if the party wins the next general election.

Mr Alan Tiffin, the postmen's leader, told the Union of Communication Workers' annual conference in Jersey a Labour government must let the Post Office set its own charges. "Over the past five years the cost of the first-class post has fallen by 11 per cent in real terms," he said.

Builders revive ancient method

By John Young

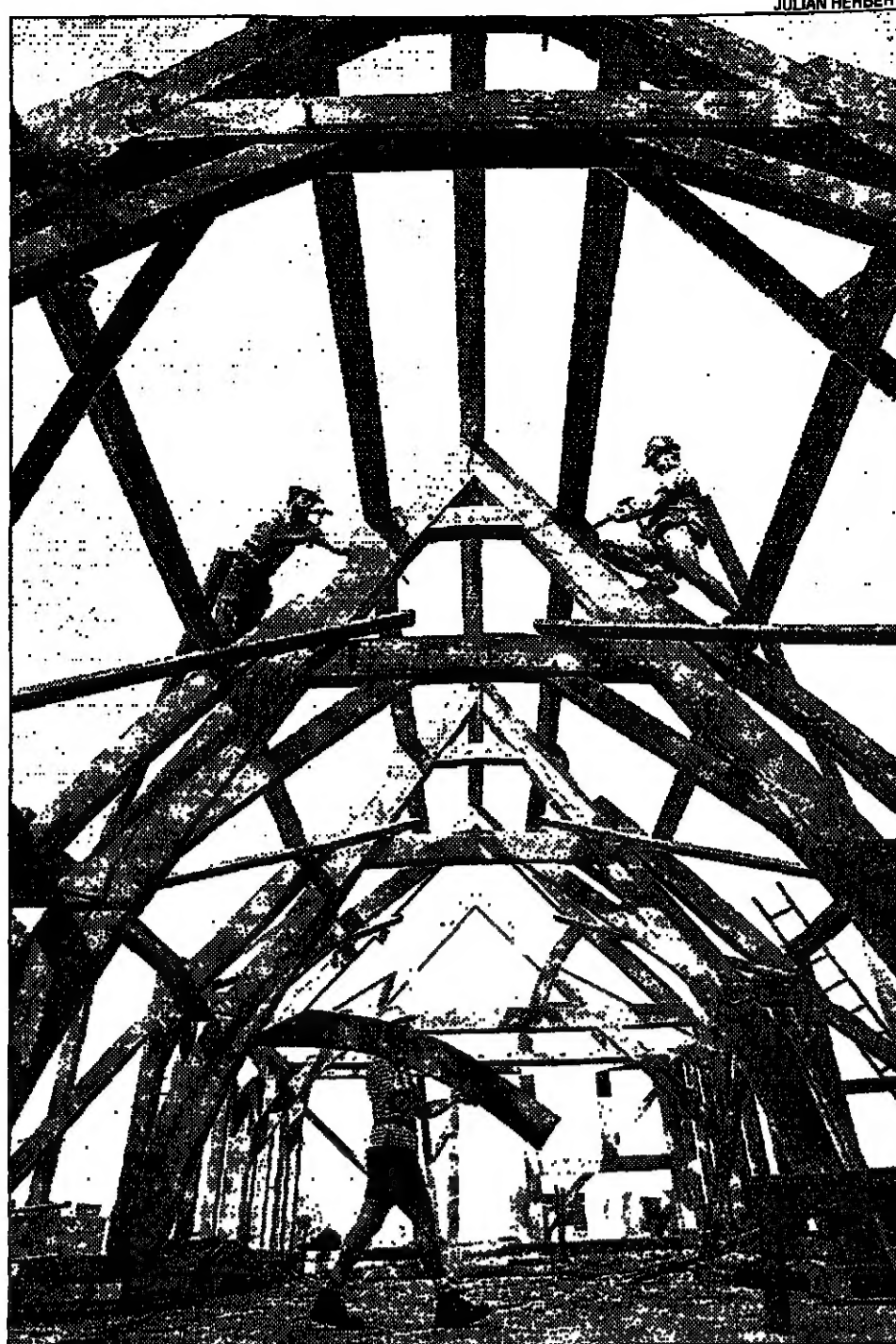
THE frame of a new timber house with full crucks, at Windrush Hill, near Totnes, Devon, is believed to be the first of its kind to be erected in Britain for at least 300 years.

Full crucks are curved timbers cut in pairs from a single oak tree and reaching from the ground to the ridge of the roof. Making them involves selecting an oak with a curve in its trunk that matches the roof pitch. In medieval times, cruck frames were employed to spectacular effect in great houses and monastic tithe barns, but their use was discontinued in about 1700.

Three years ago, Mr Roderick James, an architect, and Mr Charles Brentnall, a timber framer, established a company, Carpenter Oak & Woodland, at Chippenham, Wiltshire, in order, in Mr James's words, "to recover the excitement of using structural oak in buildings". The company now employs 20 carpenters, and works on both new buildings and restoration projects.

It has had difficulty in persuading sawmill owners that there was a market for curved timber. Having selected a tree for the Windrush Hill building, Mr James was disconcerted to find that the bends had been sawn off before instructions were delivered.

An oak frame measuring 30ft by 20ft, and 18ft high, excluding cladding, can be erected for £16,000.



Work on what is thought to be the first cruck frame building put up for 300 years

Oil slick threatens oyster beds

By Lin Jenkins

FRESH oil deposits have been washed up along the Cornish coast, nearly 40 miles west from where the slick hit some of Devon's most spectacular tourist beaches and devastated a marine conservation area. Initial sightings from a helicopter suggested deposits had washed up on Pentewan Sands in Mevagissey Bay, Cornwall. There are fears, however, that it may have harmed the bay's oyster beds and fishing grounds, which are rich in crabs and lobsters.

Most of the 1,100 tonnes of oil spilt from the tanker Rose Bay when she was hit by the trawler Dionne Marie has been recovered or washed ashore, and yesterday the coastal clean-up operation went on. Conservation group volunteers were working in the most ecologically sensitive areas.

The remains of the slick, containing lumps of mousse with an oil content of about 30 per cent, moved west in offshore winds over the weekend, carried on the tide. Pollution experts and workers from Restormel District Council, Cornwall, were yesterday examining the extent of the pollution before beginning the task of removing it.

The Marine Pollution Control Unit tried to prevent the oil reaching the Cornish coast. Its vessel, Seaspring, intercepted the slick off Gribbin Head, Cornwall, and scooped up 50 tonnes of the mousse, but was unable to retrieve it all because of difficult sea conditions.

As work continued to clean up the popular tourist beaches along Bigbury Bay, Devon, 70 local council workers concentrated their efforts on Westcombe Beach and Stoke Beach. Volunteers worked by hand on the smaller areas of Wadhams Cove, Gull Cove, Carswell Cove and Butchers Cove. Oyster farmers relying on the estuaries in Bigbury Bay for their livelihoods believe the use of detergents at sea to break up the oil may have damaged their crop. Booms have been put across the Erme and Avon, but have had only limited success in preventing polluted water moving upstream.

Mr Peter Lewis, an oyster farmer, said: "I am awaiting the results of tests to see what has happened. I do not want to be pessimistic, but I think my business is going down the pan. Over the water this morning was a film of detergent and scum on the surface. If this gets into them, they are finished."

So far 14 sea birds have been treated for the effects of oil. The biggest threat to sea birds, however, remains the oil off Wembury, Devon, around one of the country's only cormorant nesting grounds, Great Mew Stone, where 90 pairs of the birds are rearing their young.

Work trial may avert BA strike

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

BRITISH Airways is proposing a trial run of a disputed 12-hour roster in an attempt to avert a strike by 460 engineers at Heathrow. The proposal was put forward at informal talks between the airline and unions over the weekend. A strike would disrupt domestic and short-haul European flights from Wednesday.

BA, which is convinced the change would be accepted after a trial period, pledged to abide by any democratic decision taken after the engineers had tried the system. The airline planned to impose the roster from Wednesday.

The roster involves engineers working four 12-hour shifts followed by four days off, with a reduction in annual leave from 25 days to 19. The roster is designed to improve productivity by 5 per cent. More than 1,000 engineers at Gatwick have already accepted the change. The Heathrow engineers said it would disrupt traditional work patterns and might endanger safety, with men working when they were tired.

Maguire case hearings begin

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

THE first public hearings of the judicial inquiry into the Guildford Four case and linked convictions opens today with an examination of the forensic evidence that led to the imprisonment of seven defendants in the Annie Maguire bomb factory case 14 years ago.

Sir John May, the former Court of Appeal judge heading the inquiry, and civilian assessors will, over the next few weeks, hear the results of fresh analysis of the credibility of tests for nitro-glycerine on which the Maguire convictions rested.

In the past two months, tests have been carried out by Professor Duncan Thornburn-Burns, professor of analytical chemistry at Queen's University, Belfast, at the Home Office laboratory in Birmingham on a method of detecting explosive traces that has been at the centre of controversy

since the trial. Hearings on the case of the Guildford Four remain many months away. Officers from Avon and Somerset police are still investigating allegations of malpractice against seven former or present Surrey police officers and the inquiry must wait for any criminal prosecutions. The Maguire case is restricted to the forensic evidence, until the progress of police investigations becomes clearer.

Mrs Annie Maguire is the aunt of Mr Gerry Conlon, one of the four Guildford Four defendants freed by the Court of Appeal last October. The police were led to the Maguire household in north London after interviewing several of the Guildford Four defendants. The interviews were challenged during the trial of the Guildford Four; eventually the Four's convictions were quashed because of irregularities in the confessions.

Blakelock case opens

A SCOTLAND Yard disciplinary hearing opens today into allegations against the detective heading the investigation into the murder of PC Keith Blakelock at the Broadwater Farm Estate, in north London, in 1985 (Our Crime Correspondent writes). The hearing follows criticism of police treatment of a boy of 13 questioned about the murder.

The result of the private hearing will be studied by legal advisers for the three men convicted of the murder.

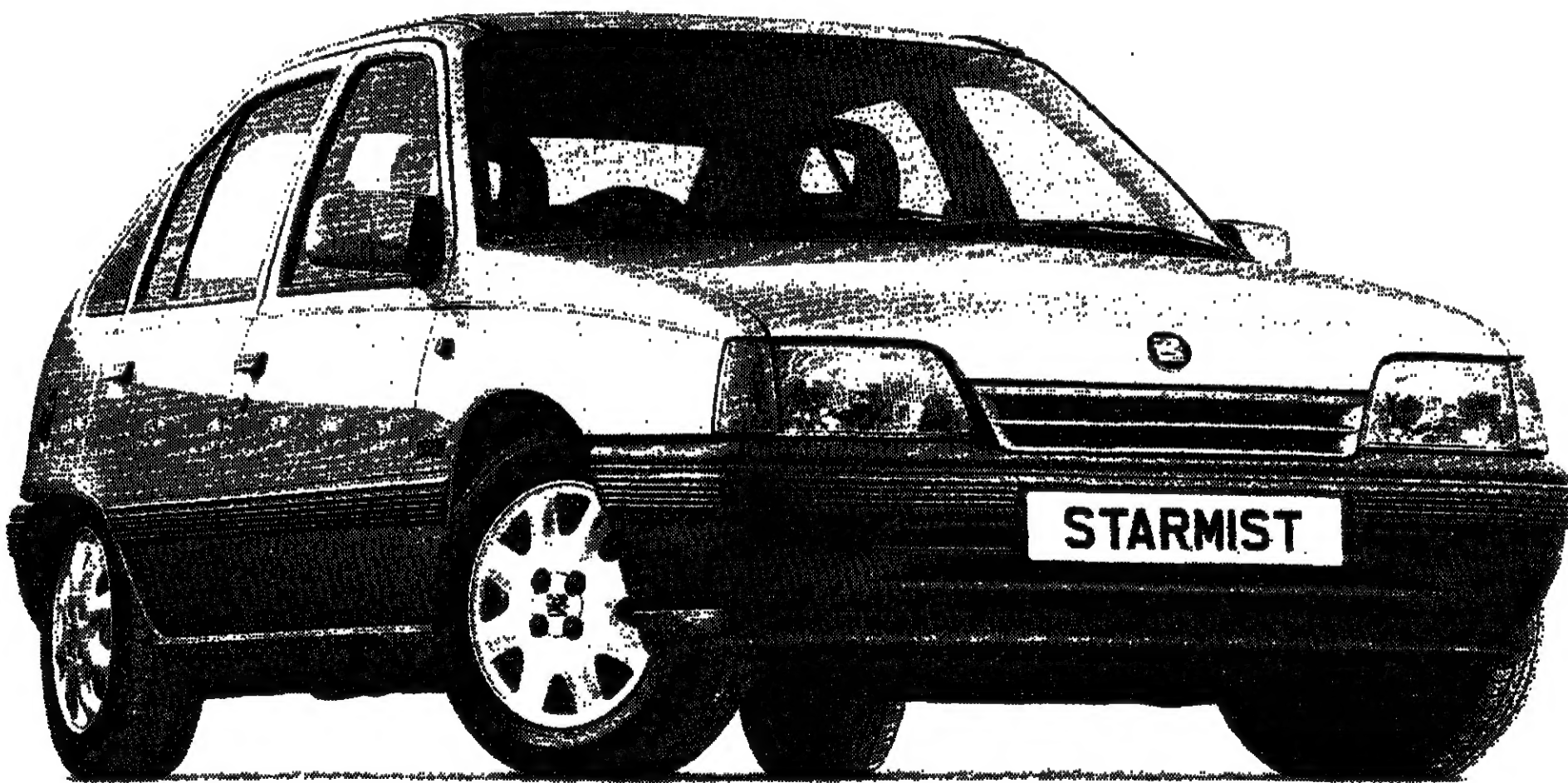
The allegations facing Det Chief Supt Graham Melvin, now running the Yard's organized crime task force, arise from remarks by Mr Justice Hodgson at the murder trial in 1987 over the treatment of a

juvenile defendant. Throwing out the murder charge, the judge said that police action had been "burdensome, harsh and wrong". Mr Melvin was not involved in interrogation of the youth, but was in charge of the case, and the judge commented on breaches of a test run of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

Mr Melvin denies the allegations, accusing him of abuse of authority, disobedience to orders and being an accessory to a disciplinary offence.

Mr Melvin is expected to argue that the allegations are based on the judge's comments, which are hearsay. He may also claim that they are an abuse of process because of the delay in bringing the case.

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Oil slick threatens oyster beds

By Lin Jenkins

Oil slicks have been seen along the coast of Devon's most popular beaches and a marine conservation officer suggests that the initial sightings were washed up on the shore in the aftermath of the crash of the tanker *Esso* in the Atlantic. There are fears that the oil may have reached the oyster beds in the bay and the fishery grounds. The oil slick was seen in the bay of Brixham, Devon, on the night of the tanker's crash. The tanker was carrying a large quantity of oil and was carrying a large quantity of oil. The tanker was carrying a large quantity of oil and was carrying a large quantity of oil.

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Waddington to press for early charity legislation

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Home Secretary is pressing for early legislation to tighten controls on charities and to give the Charity Commission stronger powers to deal with fraud and mismanagement.

Mr David Waddington is expected to press for a Bill to be included in the legislative programme for the next session of Parliament amid growing belief among ministers that urgent action is needed to prevent the risk of a scandal at one of the big charities.

The Home Secretary believes that, with some £13 billion flowing through the charities each year, the commission should be given new "teeth" to prevent abuse and be relieved of some of its existing statutory duties. Those include handling investments of some charities which the Government believes should be the responsibility of the charities.

The legislation will be based

on the White Paper on charities, published last year, and will implement the main proposals of the Woodfield report. Under the proposals, people convicted of fraud or dishonesty will be banned from being charity trustees and all registered charities will be required to submit to the commission each year statements of accounts.

The commissioners will, in certain circumstances, be given power to appoint receivers and managers, to alter charity trusts, and to transfer a charity's assets to another charity. The commission will, for the first time, also be able to go to court to recover charity property or enforce obligations owed to charities.

The White Paper, in proposing new powers to safeguard charity property and prevent abuse, also suggested measures to ensure that the register of charities is accurate. Other proposals include powers to allow more small charities to change their objects, amalgamate or wind up, the introduction of registration fees and modest charges for some of the commission's services, and allowing trustees to dispose of charity land without consent from the commission.

Putting the White Paper forward, Mr Douglas Hurd, Mr Waddington's predecessor, said: "Our aim is to strike a balance between freedom and control — the freedom of charities to go about their business without unreasonable interference but within a framework which ensures proper public accountability and gives the Charity Commission powers to step in when things go wrong."

The move for legislation comes after a period in which some well known charities have been involved in publicized difficulties. The governing council of the Third World charity War on Want proposed in March that it be wound up and staff dismissed. The charity is estimated to be £2 million in debt and has had to borrow large sums to repay money owed to other agencies.

The Charity Commission recently promised an investigation into political campaigning by Oxfam, a move seen by some in the charity world as evidence of the commission's desire to show a tough line in advance of legislation. Mr Waddington believes that the commission has been sidetracked by its investment duties and wants it to concentrate on policing charities and to prevent them falling into disrepute.

Although Mr Waddington failed during the preliminary Cabinet discussions on the next Queen's Speech to win a guaranteed legislative slot for a Bill, he is expected to make another attempt soon to get it into the programme. If it is not in the November programme, ministers are certain that it will be introduced in the following session.

Peers to be pressed on Nazi Bill

By Sheila Guna Political Reporter

A LAST-DITCH campaign will be mounted in the Lords this week to persuade peers not to provoke a constitutional clash with MPs by killing off the War Crimes Bill.

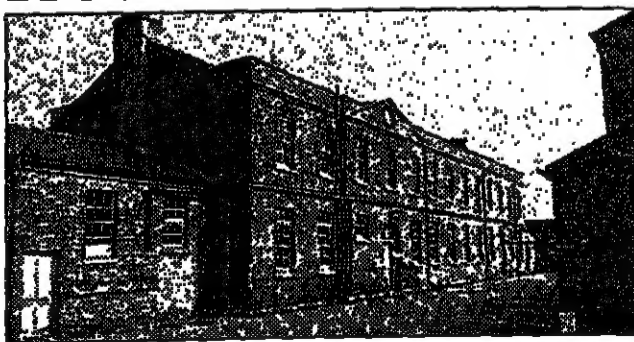
Sir Thomas Hetherington, the former Director of Public Prosecutions and joint author of the inquiry into Nazi criminals living in Britain, is to tell peers of all parties that there is the clearest possible evidence against suspects who fled to Britain after the Second World War.

Although the former Director of Public Prosecutions will not be free to divulge details of the confidential section of his report, which lists the suspects and the evidence, he will seek to convince peers that a strong case exists for bringing the suspects to trial.

Much of the evidence has come to light as previously secret files held in eastern Europe have been opened to Western eyes.

The Lords meeting on Wednesday, hosted by Lord Tonypantry, the former Speaker, has been organized by the all-party war crimes group. The crucial decision on whether to throw out the legislation will be taken on Monday, June 4.

Soundings by House of Lords sources disclose that most peers are opposed to the legislation in spite of a 273 to 60 Commons vote in favour. Senior Cabinet ministers have disclosed that, if the peers defy them, they are prepared to force through the legislation next session using the Parliament Acts.



Fleet supplier: The Royal Ordnance Depot in Gosport

Historic depot's future disputed

By John Young

A NOTABLE secret enclave of British naval history is threatened by a dispute between local authorities, which want to restore it and open it to the public as a museum, and the Ministry of Defence which seems determined to sell the site to the highest bidder.

The Royal Ordnance Depot at Friddy's Hard, Gosport, Hampshire, supplied the Fleet at Portsmouth with arms and ammunition. It became a munitions depot after citizens petitioned George III against the danger of transporting gunpowder through the town.

Gosport grew with the establishment of the depot on farmland and it was used to arm warships and to test weapons from the Napoleonic era till the Falklands campaign. Four years ago, when its final closure was imminent, Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council began negotiations with the ministry about the future of the 100-acre site, which contains a number of listed buildings. Among them is the

Grade I Georgian powder magazine which, until recently, housed a remarkable collection of armaments ranging from medieval pikes to the shell of an atom bomb.

A few weeks ago Mr Ronald Wilson, Gosport council's assistant chief executive, received a letter from Mr Ian Wilby, head of the ministry's central disposals unit, abandoning further talks. The council's "aspirations", Mr Wilby said, were "excessive and unreasonable". They would cause "an unacceptable reduction in ministry receipts".

Local authority planning appeals where the decision has been overturned in favour of the property developer have doubled in the past five years, according to the Association of District Councils (Christopher Warman writes).

The association has called on its members — the non-metropolitan district authorities in England and Wales — to strengthen their local plans in order to defend more successfully their views on development proposals.

A-level hopeful runs for Oxford place

JULIAN HERBERT



Physical homework: Miss Emma Johns training on the beach at St Austell in Cornwall for her hoped for place at Oxford University

THE long wait for this summer's A-level results will be particularly agonizing for Miss Emma Johns, from St Austell Sixth-Form College, in Cornwall (Douglas Broom writes). As well as a place at university, her grades could also secure her a place in educational history.

Grades permitting, Miss Johns will

become the first person to be admitted to Oxford University on the basis of an A-level pass in physical education. She has been offered a place to read physiology at St Anne's College.

Miss Johns, aged 18, is one of 740 students who have taken pilot courses in physical education and sports studies offered by the Associated

Examining Board. There is a long Oxbridge tradition of admitting potential blues with less than impressive academic records. Miss Johns won her place on academic grounds. The A-level course in PE, which has just won official approval from the School Examinations and Assessment Council, is primarily science-based,

including elements of anatomy, biomechanics, physiology and psychology. The syllabus, which Miss Johns described as "very hard", is 70 per cent theory, including questions on the history of sport, with tests in team and individual sports.

Education, pages 16,17

Standards at small schools praised

By Craig Seton

A RESEARCH project into standards at six secondary schools in a rural area has concluded that small can be beautiful within the comprehensive system.

A two-year study of the schools in Hereford and Worcester found they attracted well qualified and experienced staff, that high-achievers and average children performed as well as or better academically than in larger schools in urban areas of the county and produced fewer troublesome pupils.

The schools have rolls of between 200 and 450 pupils and three have faced the possibility of closure. All are in small towns or serve village communities and are of a size that might normally have put them at risk on economic and educational grounds.

The survey was conducted for the county council by Professor John Tomlinson, head of the institute of education at Warwick University. He said yesterday: "We know that the pupils themselves and their parents feel that this scale of organization allows them some sense of individuality and that there are going to be fewer problems of discipline, truancy and violence."

Three of the six schools offered all 10 subjects on the National Curriculum. Three-quarters of the pupils were found to have enjoyed their schools and thought discipline was about right.

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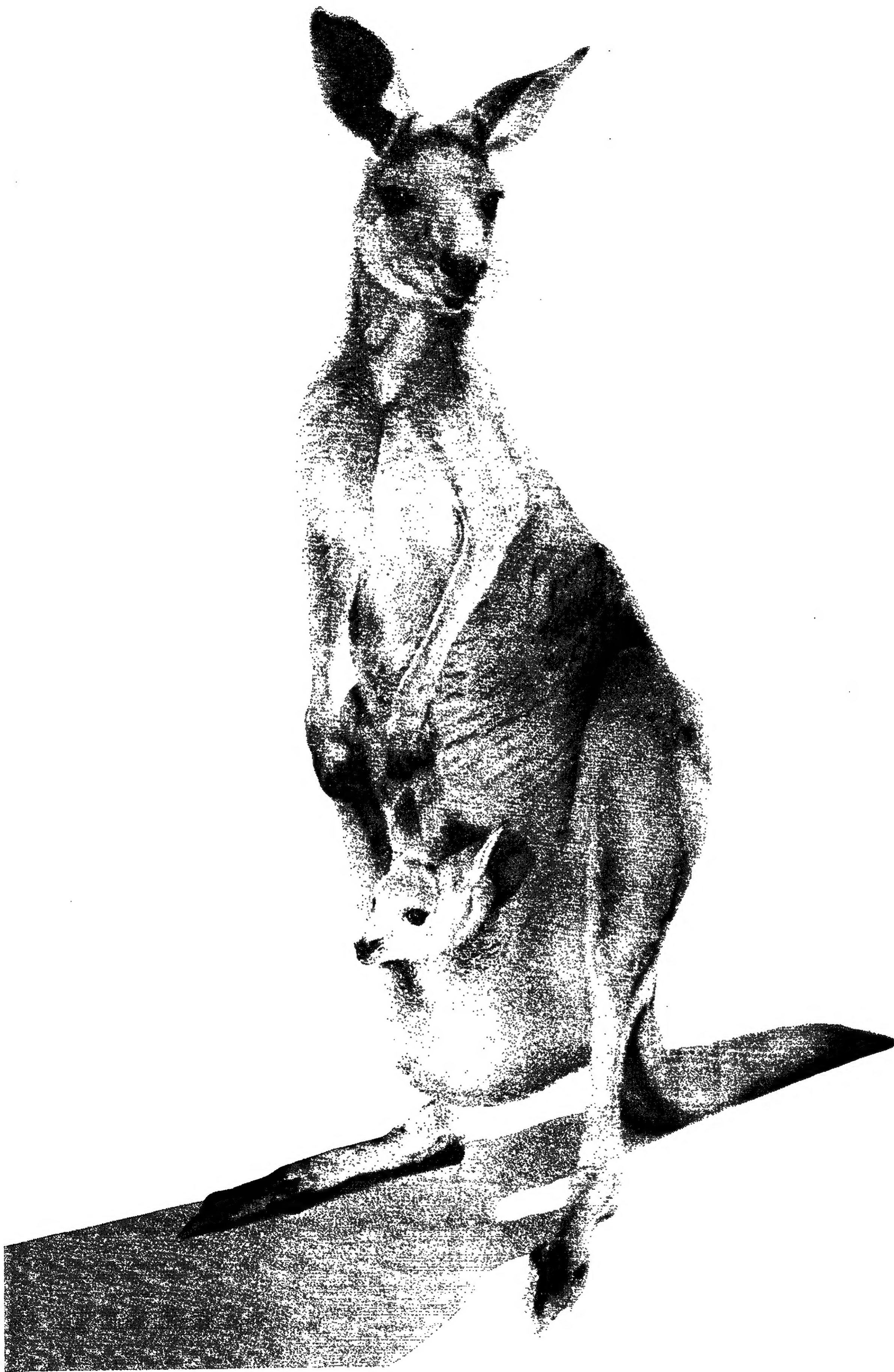
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Prosecution team ends giant task but second looms

By Paul Wilkinson

THIS week the mammoth task of Mr John Chadwick, QC, leading prosecuting counsel in the so-called Guinness Affair should reach a high point. His duty of laying the Crown's case before the jury at Southwark Crown Court will be complete, 14 weeks after it began.

Now he and his team of two other QCs and a single junior face the equally demanding job of challenging the defence of the four defendants accused of a massive illegal share support operation to ensure the success of the brewing group's £2.7 billion takeover in 1986 of the Scottish drinks conglomerate Distillers.

The case has become notable not just for the millions of pounds allegedly paid to those who helped Guinness pull the deal off, or for the names of the great and good dropped throughout the past 100 days, but also for the tactics allegedly employed by the protagonists.

The claims of deals clinched over dinners in West End clubs, documents shredded before Department of Trade inspectors arrived and late night meetings to set up cover stories read like something a pot-boiler thriller writer would be hard-pressed to conceive. Names mentioned dropped in court to titillate the chattering onlookers in the City and elsewhere have included the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and the England football striker, Gary Lineker.

Invariably, those named had a completely innocent contact with one or other of the defendants, but the name-dropping always added an extra frisson to an already bubbling story.

The leading character in the story is the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, Mr Ernest Saunders, aged 54. He was head-hunted in 1981 from the Swiss confectionery group Nestlé to rescue the brewers from probable disaster. Guinness was run at the time by what counsel for Mr Saunders, Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, called well-meaning amateurs and Irish aristocrats.

Mr Saunders, with a series of acquisitions, including the Bells whisky company, increased the stock market value of Guinness six-fold, before in 1986 he set out to control Distillers, a company larger than Guinness.

The takeover was not easy, for Argyll, the Scottish super-market chain, was also anxious to own the makers of such famous brands as Johnnie Walker whisky and Gordon's Gin. There was a fierce City fight, with bid and counter-bid, before Guinness was successful. It was the tactics employed by Mr Saunders and his supporters which formed

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, south-west London, faces two charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; two of authorizing or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; eight of false accounting; two of theft and one of destroying company documents.

Gerald Ronson, 50, of Hampstead, north-west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; two of false accounting and one of theft.

Anthony Parnes, 44, of London, faces five charges of false accounting and two of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, 74, of Kensington, west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of conspiring to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; four of false accounting; and one of theft.

the basis of the 24 counts he and his co-defendants have denied at Southwark under the Theft Act, 1968, the 1985 Companies Act and the 1958 Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act.

With Mr Saunders in the temporary dock of the windowless Court Four are three leading City figures. They are:

Mr Gerald Ronson, aged 50, from Hampstead, north-west London, the millionaire chairman of the Heron Corporation property and motor group;

Mr Anthony Parnes, aged 44, of London, a formidable figure in City stockbroking circles;

Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, from Kensington, west London, a wealthy financier, much respected in the Square Mile not only for his business acumen and high-placed contacts, but also as a lover and patron of the arts.

When Mr Chadwick opened his case in mid-February he accused the four of greed,

ambition and power-seeking on a grand scale which allowed them to be carried into dishonesty and criminality. The prosecution has claimed that Guinness launched its bid in January 1986. Its success hinged on convincing enough Distillers' shareholders that the brewers' offer was superior to Argyll's. The value of the offer depended on the share price of the company making it, so Mr Saunders allegedly set about finding supporters who would buy Guinness shares and force their value up. He allegedly recruited Sir Jack Lyons and Mr Parnes into the scheme and persuaded Mr Ronson to buy shares to a value of £25 million. Other City figures not before the court also allegedly lent their support, spending millions of pounds to bolster the Guinness price.

Their pay-off for the support came in large "success fees" guaranteed by Guinness. Mr Ronson received £5 million. Sir Jack was given £3 million for his assistance and Mr Parnes £3.3 million. The directors of Guinness at the time of the takeover have all told the hearing that they knew nothing of the arrangements or the fees and would have opposed them if they had been aware of the deals.

The Crown's case is that Mr Ronson received his pay-off in two instalments, paid to Heron Group subsidiaries. The first, of £2,875,000 was paid on an invoice sent by Heron management in June 1986, claiming payment for "services rendered".

Before the second instalment was paid Heron sold its shareholding, making a loss of £800,000, so that was added to the next payment, one of £4.8 million dollars sent to a Heron subsidiary in the United States, Pima Savings and Loan. That company suffered over the collapse of the US property loans and savings market and Mr Ronson hoped to help to rescue it with the cash.

Pima invoiced Guinness for "services in connection with the acquisition of Distillers" and the money was paid over at the end of 1986. The Crown maintains that Pima had no

dealings in the takeover bid. After the Department of Trade and Industry began its own investigation into the takeover, the Heron board ordered the immediate repayment of the money.

Mr Parnes was allegedly instrumental in introducing Mr Saunders to another supporter, Mr Ephraim Margulies, then head of the Berisford food group. The prosecution says that over luncheon at the New Piccadilly Hotel in central London, Mr Margulies agreed to buy up to £15 million of Guinness shares. For that, two of his companies, Cifco and Erlanger, received fees totalling £3.5 million. Cifco's payment was handed over on June 10, 1986, nine days before it legally came into existence.

The deal with Mr Margulies allegedly rebounded on Mr Parnes when the Department of Trade and Industry began its investigation. According to evidence from Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, Mr Margulies claimed he would say Cifco was not controlled by himself, but by Mr Parnes.

Mr Roux was the Crown's prime prosecution witness, having been privy to most of the hectic dealings inside Guinness during the takeover. Although part of the support operation, he has been given an indemnity from prosecution in the case in return for helping the Serious Fraud Office with its inquiries. The prosecution case against Sir Jack Lyons claims that over a luncheon at Mark's Club in Mayfair with Sir Jack, Herr Horst Tiefenthaler, the London office chief of the Zentralbanksparkasse und Commercial Bank of Vienna, promised assistance. His superiors authorized support to the value of £2 million and 2-Bank, as it became known in the trial, bought more than half-a-million shares. When the takeover was won it sold out at a loss of £253,424.

Over another meal at the Mark's Club, it was alleged that Sir Jack produced an invoice hand-written on the bank's own notepaper for fees of £250,000, plus £4,000 in expenses. It was subsequently paid, but the bank has since repaid the cash.

It was Sir Jack who introduced Mrs Thatcher's name into the trial when evidence from his interview with DTI inspectors was read out. He had used his contacts at 10 Downing Street in an effort to prevent referral of the Guinness bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, writing to Mrs Thatcher with whom he said he and his wife were on first-name terms. The bid was not referred, but the decision had already been taken before Sir Jack sent his letter, the court was told.

The jury has been deluged with a welter of figures, details and correspondence, but it is the Crown's contention that the issue is a simple one. Did Mr Saunders and his co-defendants knowingly conspire to push the takeover through by illegal means? Next week it is the turn of the defendants to put their case.

The hearing was predicted to last at least three months and it took the best part of a week to find 12 jurors able to spend that amount of time in court. Already the estimate has been exceeded and all the indications are that another three months lies ahead of them.



Out of court: Mr Saunders, temporarily away from the stresses of Southwark Crown Court, taking a walk by the Thames at Wandsworth

Strangers' greetings for an embattled Saunders

By Brian James

THIS morning Mr Ernest Saunders expects to be warmly greeted by at least one mutual stranger as he crosses Waterloo station concourse on his way to sit stoically in Southwark Crown Court for the 55th consecutive working day listening to slow words of accusation from people he once knew rather well.

If not today, then tomorrow, the prosecution will finish its evidence against Mr Saunders, chairman and chief executive of the Guinness group at the time of the takeover of Distillers. The other three sharing his clerk's proscenium bench — his co-defendants Sir Jack Lyons, Mr Gerald Ronson and Mr Anthony Parnes — are also more used to being displayed on the top tables of the financial district's feasts. All deny all the charges.

Mr Saunders's insistence that events have forced him into that public domain where politicians and television presenters tread seems not mere mad conceit. We shared a lift towards the end of day 54. "Hello there", said a barrister bustling in from another court. "How is it going? No, we haven't met. But you can't expect anonymity ever again, can you?"

"That sort of thing every day," Mr Saunders said. "In the street, at the station. Then letters come addressed to me at court." Some abusive? "Never. Old ladies sending fivers, even."

But Mr Saunders is clearly not as yet the star of Trial 881630. In court two, the drama is ensemble-playing. He and his co-defendants are seated at the rear, the so-far silent back row of the chorus, totally upstaged by rows of

men in gowns and wigs who give themselves all the best lines. The stage-setting is minimalist: no traditional dock, no uniformed police always present when this room puts on its usual tales of whisky fallen from lorry tailgates and lead gone missing from the church roof.

He makes his morning entrances to a round of not-unfriendly nods. Important issues are at stake, involving the disposition of billions, yet there is an odd mazy air, as though torpedoes and U-boat survivors finding themselves in the same lifeboat have made a pact to keep things civilized. A clerk passes around photostats of a newspaper artists' daily sketch. Most crane to look. "I say, that's me. Made my wig look a bit tatty. I may sue."

The fear at the start of Trial 881630 was that the complexity of the issues would first confuse the jury, then drive it comatose. This has proved not to be. Heads among the 12 lift with uniform alertness when a neat point is made: often one juror, in jeans and jacketless, will beat the wigged barristers in finding the proper evidence bundle at the urging of Mr Justice Henry.

That, the habitués say, is because the case has been pure soap opera of cabals and conflict in high-paid places. They recall the nine-day episode when Olivier Roux, the key prosecution witness, was on the stand.

They remember the more melancholy appearance of Lord Iveagh, the Anglo-Irish aristocrat whose frequently daffy line goes back to the £100 beginning in 1752 of the Guinness brewing and banking empire. It was that famous

company, in 1981, that Ernest Saunders swept in to revive spectacularly.

Mr Saunders's bit-playing role until now has been to sit scribbling the occasional note, which he hands to the public bench at his back for his son James, who passed his bar examinations in the week his father was arrested, to carry, crouching, to their barristers' table. Occasionally he will reach a languid arm back, and he and James will share a discreet Mars bar or packet of biscuits.

Every night and at the weekend Saunders and Son (the senior, too, is qualified in the law) pore over legal books planning the word-by-word strategy for when he gets his chance to answer back. The strain? "Enormous. Getting to grips with all this finance talk is like taking a daily exam — in a subject as foreign to me as engineering. I was a brand man, all about selling, marketing, not money."

Now and then the Saunders take time off to "walk the Boat Race course Putney to Mortlake — though we don't often get beyond Hammer-smith. Too much to do."

The only professional activity of Mr Saunders since Trial 881630 began with preliminary hearings through all last summer, long before the jury was assembled, has been to give a spasmodic series of lectures at business symposia in Switzerland, Ireland and Oxford. His subject? "I speak to the title, 'The Risks of Being Chief Executive'. No, of course I don't mention my own case. But when I talk about dangers my audience understands I know of what I speak. As I told you I am pretty well known."



Sir Jack Lyons: Financier and arts patron



Mr Parnes: Formidable City figure



Mr Ronson: Millionaire chief of Heron

Smoking 'may lead to asthma'

By Thomson Prestice
Science Correspondent

ASTHMA is becoming more common among children, and the increase may be partly due to the smoking habit of their mothers, according to researchers.

A study of almost 30,000 schoolchildren in 22 areas of England between 1973 and 1986 has confirmed doctors' suspicions that the condition has become more prevalent, rather than simply being diagnosed more accurately.

The findings, by public health specialists at two London hospitals, Guy's and St Thomas's, are published in the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal*. The reasons for the rise are unknown, but the researchers suggest that smoking in pregnancy may be a contributory factor. "The increasing prevalence of smoking in women of child-bearing age up until the mid-1970s might explain some of the increase," the researchers say.

Cause of a rise in railway deaths 'being covered up'

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

THE Department of Transport, British Rail and the Railway Inspectorate are involved in a conspiracy to cover up the cause of a dramatic increase in deaths and injuries on the railways over the past five years, it was alleged yesterday.

Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, made the claim after reviewing the conclusions of reports into the Glasgow train collision in May 1989, and the collapse of the Glynrhodri Bridge, South Wales, in October 1987. They were officially attributed to "human error", but the underlying causes were a combination of "pressure on staffing levels and cuts in government support for BR" which the Railway Inspectorate had failed to expose, he said.

Mr Prescott said it was imperative to remove the inspectorate from the control of the Department of Transport to create an independent and critical body with the power to "help raise safety

levels on our railways and restore public confidence."

The report into the Glasgow collision, which resulted in two deaths and 54 injuries, blamed the driver for passing a red light, in spite of an acknowledgement by the inquiry that the accident could not have happened if BR had not introduced a new money-saving track layout, Mr Prescott said. BR had replaced the double crossover at the junction with a single crossover, without the required permission of the Inspectorate, which reduced the safety margin for passing trains, he said.

In the Glynrhodri Bridge disaster, when four people died after the front car of the Swansea to Shrewsbury passenger train plunged off the partially collapsed bridge into the river Towl, Mr Prescott accused the inspectorate of allowing BR to use the train to "test the track on a bridge that was not safe". He said that over the past five years the total number of fatalities on

the railways had risen from 335 to 693, an increase of more than 100 per cent. Deaths and injuries to staff had also increased by 90 per cent, from 152 to 289, and the ratio of accidents per 1,000 employees had approximately doubled.

The Department of Transport rejected the allegations, saying his interpretation of the causes of the two inquiries were not borne out by the evidence. "We do not accept that the Railway Inspectorate's independence is undermined because it is part of the Department of Transport," a spokesman said. "These investigations were subject to no interference from department officials."

In February Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, announced an agreement with the Health and Safety Commission to look at transferring inspectorate staff to the commission. The results will be announced later this year.

Financial support urged for wind energy

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

THE environmental group Friends of the Earth is urging the Government to take swift action to make wind energy viable within privatized electricity.

Friends of the Earth says many schemes are likely to fail the Government's tough, new price test unless they receive improved financial support and more secure supply contracts. Mr Simon Roberts, the group's energy campaigner, said "The United Kingdom has the best wind resource in Europe, but the Government is throwing away the chance to harness it. Electricity privatization was originally meant to

help the development of renewables but it is now clear that only immediate action will make it work for wind."

His call comes as officials at the Department of Energy are reassessing the number of wind projects for the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation fund that is designed to support the nuclear industry and the development of clean energy. Friends of the Earth, however, claims that up to half the wind projects are now too costly because of an agreement between the Government and the European Commission, signed in March. The EC argued that the non-fossil fuel fund was an unfair way of funding nuclear power because the funds to be allocated

to area electricity boards came from a levy on electricity customers. As a result, the levy will last only eight years instead of the 15 to 20 years envisaged earlier.

Many groups claim they cannot meet the price ceiling of 6p a kilowatt hour because the restoration affects clean energy generators as well as nuclear power. They say the heavy cost of building wind generators cannot be met in eight years. Friends of the Earth is urging the Government to increase the price cap to 8p. The group also wants guarantees that renewable energy will be treated differently from nuclear power and will continue to obtain premium prices beyond 1998.

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THE TIMES

Superpower gloss fails to hide tussle for strategic treaty

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

ALTHOUGH both Washington and Moscow are putting the brightest gloss possible on the weekend outcome of the Baker-Shevardnadze talks here, it is apparent that much work remains to be done before the planned centrepiece of the summit meeting — agreement in principle on a Start treaty — is a realistic expectation.

Addressing journalists in Moscow at the end of the talks, Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, described the talks as having laid a "solid foundation for the Soviet-American summit" but he admitted that

the negotiations on arms control had almost broken down several times.

"The whole carefully wrought package," he said, "threatened to unravel several times. And the only thing to do was to sit back, not to panic, and to look at everything again."

In a comment directed perhaps as much to his fellow Soviet negotiators as to Mr James Baker, he complimented the US Secretary of State on his "restraint, understanding of the problems and professionalism".

According to Mr Baker, one of the sticking points from the

Soviet point of view was a little-known US conventional missile known as "tactic rainbow" which has not yet been deployed. The dispute was solved, at least temporarily, when Mr Baker gave Mr Shevardnadze a written undertaking that the missile would and could never be armed with nuclear warheads.

US State Department officials told reporters travelling with Mr Baker that there were three crisis points in the talks. The first came before Mr Baker's meeting with President Gorbachev last Friday morning when the two sides were still divided on numbers and range of cruise missiles (air-launched and sea-launched) to be included in a Start agreement.

Mr Baker had believed that Mr Gorbachev had given the green light for an agreement.

But on Friday evening came the second crisis when Soviet negotiators returned with new conditions for both types of cruise missiles.

The third crisis arose after specialists had worked through Friday night and convened for 90 minutes in their working group on Saturday morning without agreement. It was after this that Mr Baker sent his written undertaking on "tactic rainbow" and the deal was struck.

As both sides stressed, however, they do not yet have a comprehensive agreement ready to sign. And, indicating that the Soviet side might be unable to conclude agreement in the 10 days remaining before the summit, Mr Shevardnadze said: "I cannot exclude the possibility that we will have to sit down and do more work after the summer."

While Mr Baker was reluctant to give details of US-Soviet discussions on Lithuania — understanding perhaps Moscow's sensitivity on the subject — Mr Shevardnadze was more forthcoming. The US side had made it known, he said, that complications in the Baltic "could become an obstacle to the further development of US-USSR ties".

Mr Gorbachev threw US officials into confusion last week when they learnt that he was adding, in the last-minute Soviet fashion of recent summits, an extra day to his Washington itinerary for tourism and politicking.

Bush hails arms talks progress

From Susan Elliott, Washington

PRESIDENT Bush, who wants to sign an accord cutting conventional forces this year, hailed the progress in Moscow on efforts to complete a strategic nuclear arms treaty as a "breakthrough", but said that much work remained to be done to iron out differences that arose from the meetings between Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze.

The upbeat but cautious US reaction set the tone for the forthcoming summit between President Bush and President Gorbachev in Washington later this month. The Bush Administration has billed the meeting of the two leaders as a "tough love" summit, expressing the recent tensions between the superpowers that have grown in an era of improved East-West relations, especially over the Kremlin's handling of Lithuania's bid for independence.

Mr Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's National Security Adviser, said Soviet officials were "stonewalling" negotiations on cutting conventional forces, including the strengths of armies and other non-nuclear units in Europe, by refusing to compromise.

Mr Baker said in Moscow



A Palestinian man grieving for a relative shot dead in the attack yesterday by a lone Israeli gunman, who killed seven Arab workers near Tel Aviv. A wave of riots followed in the occupied territories, in which seven more Arabs died

Pace for federal Europe slows

From Peter Gailford, Parknasilla, Co Kerry

EUROPEAN Community governments appear to be backing away from any race towards the creation of a new federal Europe that would mean yielding substantial power to the European Parliament or pooling sovereignty over security and foreign policy, it emerged during key talks between EC foreign ministers over the weekend.

The new mood of caution, welcomed with relief by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, marks a distinct

change of tone on the part of some of Britain's more federally-minded EC partners, notably France and the Netherlands. Speaking in the gardens of the Great Southern Hotel in Parknasilla, Co Kerry, Mr Hurd said this "change of mood" put to rest the Community's "great ambitions for political union".

Even M Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, reflected the new pragmatism: "We cannot reach even a minimum of consensus if we talk now of the final vision of political union," he said.

"No country is ready in 1990 to give up sovereignty over foreign and security matters," M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, said — remarks echoed by Mr Hans Van den Broek, his Dutch counterpart. Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, who chaired the meeting, emphatically denied that the Community was working towards a shared defence policy: "It has never even been on the table."

Iron grips scientists as global panacea

From Susan Elliott, Washington

MR BUSH, the self-avowed environment President, already thinks it is too early to take the lead in international efforts to combat global warming. But his natural caution may well be reinforced when he hears about the latest scientific suggestion: to sink hundreds of thousands of tonnes of iron in to the sea to fertilize marine algae which could gobble up the surplus carbon dioxide believed to be causing the problem.

According to *The Washington Post*, a panel of scientists sponsored by Congress to advise the US Government on technical matters has, in all seriousness, proposed such dumping to counteract iron deficiencies in some oceans, including the coastal waters of Alaska or Antarctica. The scheme would be one of the largest attempts ever to alter the balance of nature.

In theory, the ocean's population of minute algae — phytoplankton — would flourish with an iron supplement just as pot-plants show spurts of growth when given high-protein food. The panel has admitted, however, that the long-term and negative effects of the dumping of iron on a huge scale remain unclear.

It is, it concluded in an unpublished report, "conceptually feasible to slow the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide" by fertilizing the sea with iron.

Experts for the National Research Council have proposed spending between £30 million and £90 million on an experiment off Antarctica or Alaska to see if their idea works. The scientists believe that a lack of iron is the only thing holding the marine population of algae in check. The plants need the metal to produce amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, from nitrogen and other nutrients.

During the process of photosynthesis the algae use large quantities of carbon dioxide. Scientists believe that high levels of the gas, produced by industrial waste and the exhaust fumes of cars, are causing a rise in the Earth's temperature by trapping solar heat in the atmosphere.

Spacemen are not in danger says Moscow

Moscow — The Soviet Union has denied that two cosmonauts are marooned in space and said they would be able to return to Earth after routine repairs to their ferry craft. *Izvestia* acknowledged that the insulation cover of the Soyuz spacecraft was damaged during its launch in February.

But the newspaper, quoting Mr Yuri Serebryannikov, the official responsible for the ferry craft, dismissed a report in *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine that the cosmonauts on the orbiting Mir space station, Anatoly Solovoyov and Alexander Balandin, had no reliable means of returning to Earth. He said: "The work in orbit is continuing at the normal pace. There have been no special occurrences." (Reuter)

Tear gas beats demonstrators

Kwangju — Nearly 10,000 South Korean dissidents fought police in the streets of Kwangju for more than five hours yesterday before most were dispersed in clouds of tear gas. Officials said about 30 policemen were injured. A few bands of demonstrators taunted police well after dark. The protests marked the third of a 10-day commemoration of the 1980 Kwangju uprising crushed by the Army. The Government says nearly 200 people were killed, but dissidents and Kwangju citizens say many more died. (Reuter)

Protest flotilla sails for Cuba

Key West, Florida — A Cuban-American flotilla yesterday ignored US Coast Guard warnings of possible trouble and set sail for international waters off Havana to protest against President Castro's regime.

About 34 boats, led by a large yacht with billowing Cuban and American flags, planned to venture to within 13 miles of Havana, Cuba is 90 miles from the Florida coast. Coast Guard officials tracked the flotilla with patrol boats and on radar, concerned that the demonstrators might stray into disputed waters and be seized by the Cubans. (Reuter)

ROMANIA — THE FUTURE

The Relief Fund for Romania was established in December 1989 to provide primary aid, and to help Romania tackle its long-term problems.

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Moldavians vote amid corruption and comedy

From Richard Bassett, Baku, Moldavia

INTIMIDATION, an almost theatrical mix of corruption and high comedy, marked elections in Moldavia, Romania's most easterly region, yesterday.

Unlike Transylvania and the Banat in the north of the country, which at least enjoyed some parliamentary tradition under the Habsburgs, Moldavia's history is one of unrelieved suppression.

Here the Romanian proverb — "The blade of grass which lies flat is never cut" — is still a blueprint for survival. The National Salvation Front, led by Mr Ion Iliescu expects to do well in this region. Yesterday it was not difficult to see why. Only six of the 20 polling stations in this region were manned by foreign observers. After three hours, six of these observers were moved onto another polling station. In no cases were they allowed to remain at the station throughout the day. If they had they would have witnessed scenes which, were the issues at stake less grave, might have recalled a Marx Brothers comedy.

Queues of voters were hanged outside the polling station by Front supporters who stroled up and down with ballot forms instructing them where to make their mark. "There are 10,000 polling stations in Romania. Do you think 500 journalists and foreign observers, many of whom are still in Bucharest, can monitor them all effectively?" asked Mr Radu

Diaconescu, the opposition National Peasant Party candidate in Baku.

He voted yesterday accompanied by two of his friends. Both sported black eyes which they alleged had been received in attacks on them earlier. Both, along with Mr Diaconescu, had received telephone calls warning them to "stay at home".

"Today there is comparatively little intimidation compared to what we have gone through during the last month. Many of us are afraid to go anywhere near the polling stations," one of them said.

The campaign of intimidation, however, succeeded in frightening off scores of opposition party workers who were to have monitored voting at every polling station in the eastern part of Romania throughout the day.

"There are 23 million people in Romania. Seventeen million voters; we expect at least three million people to vote twice," said Mr Diaconescu. "But even after these elections, our fight will continue. Such accusations are disputed by Mr Iliescu's supporters in Baku who, all smiling confidently, said: "Let the people decide. You are here as an observer. What more do you want; these are very fair elections."

But while two or three polling stations situated prominently near the town's square appeared not to mind discreet inquiries, others were visibly hostile. Press accreditation in Romanian and six other languages were of no use at one small polling station near a spiky Gothic-revival church.

Mr Ion Roman, the Front's senior official in the town, explained that the ballots were "secret". But six gentlemen wearing white socks and designer jeans looked carefully on, scrutinizing every voter who entered and left the building. "Of course, there is no intimidation," Mr Roman said referring to the six men with the word which in Romania still closes all debate: "Official" (officials).

In front of Baku's small classical theatre, a group of teenage boys, grotesquely attired in old discarded Ceausescu police uniforms, begged for cigarettes. None was older than 14. On seeing a foreigner they would run up and shout "Front!" like a chorus in an opera. Despite rules prohibiting child votes, six of them, according to an interpreter, claimed to have voted that morning for the Front.

"We would have boycotted these elections if the opposition parties had agreed. But we could find no consensus," said Mr Diaconescu. "We are under no illusions that these elections will be just or fair."

Unlike last spring's elections in Poland where great pains were taken by the Communist authorities to ensure all polling stations were open to unannounced monitoring, the elections here yesterday were conducted in an atmosphere of secrecy and conspiracy.

● TIMISOARA: Residents of Timisoara, birthplace of the December uprising, turned out in large numbers to vote. Lines of between 300 and 400 people had formed outside the 106 polling stations in the city even before they opened. (AFP)



Spoilt for choice: Soldiers in Timisoara poring over the 24-page lists of candidates from 87 parties for yesterday's elections in Romania

Taking a queue for democracy

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

WITH a fortitude bred of years of queuing for even the most basic essentials, the people of Bucharest were forming lines before dawn yesterday, anxious to ensure no hitch in their patient determination to register a vote in the first free elections for more than 50 years.

By noon, queues at some of the main polling stations were at least 300 yards long, leaving many of the voters with the prospect of waiting in chilly winds for up to three hours to vote in the blue booths.

After the ugly mood of intimidation and violence which overshadowed Eastern Europe's roughest election campaign, the atmosphere at the polling booths in the capital was more festive, with many dressed in their Sunday best as a touching mark of respect for the chance to vote without the hated Securitate checking every move.

At Voting Station 15 in the city's Third District, the main residential area, there was a certain amount of good-natured confusion at the complicated mechanics of voting, but not a flicker of resentment at the length of the queues which would have exasperated

many a West European voter. "This is the first time in my life I have been able to vote what my conscience tells me. It is the most enjoyable day of the year," said Mr Pavel Dumitru, a pensioner aged 63 who, with his wife, began queuing up soon after the polls opened for business at 6am.

Despite the concern over security, the atmosphere inside the crowded voting station in a converted school was relaxed. Most of the first voters were elderly, and their support for Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President and former leading Communist, was solid. One old man began shouting to his fellow voters lining up to hand in their identity cards in exchange for the 38 pages of voting sheets which later were tucked into envelopes: "Iliescu is our man. He is the man who gave us food and light after the revolution." The man was hastily shut up by officials.

The arrival of Westerners was welcomed by voters and officials alike, who seemed proud to show off election machinery with which few had any experience. One official calculated that to have voted

in the last free election here, a Romanian would have to be at least 73 years old.

Over freshly brewed Turkish coffee (hoarded for weeks to mark the occasion), Mr Florin Ceacu, a senior electoral official, spoke contemptuously of the sham polls conducted under Ceausescu and the Communist Party when results were shamelessly cooked by his supporters.

"They were a humiliating exercise. Despite the hundreds of results on paper, there were never any queues of people to vote like there are today, and most of those who did seemed ashamed," he said.

The apparent fairness with which the voting process was being conducted at Station 15 contrasted with the crude fashion in which the ruling National Salvation Front manipulated elements of the campaign through its control of the media and strongarm tactics used against opposition groups. In an effort to ensure that voters did not fear to express their choice, Romania Libera, the main independent daily, yesterday carried a strongly-worded exhortation on its front page. "Elections are now free," it reminded its

readers. "Do not be afraid. Do not let yourself be intimidated. Nobody will know who you voted for."

Among the thousands of would-be voters, many expressed a fear of the unknown in respect of all parties other than the Front, which has been accused of carrying the mantle of the Communist Party under the thinnest of disguises. "When you have voted under the Communists for 45 years, the prospect of choice can be as bewildering as a menu with too many dishes," said a young mechanical engineer who had voted for the right-wing National Peasant Party candidate, Mr Ion Ratiu, in the presidential poll. "Unfortunately, many of these people have just switched allegiance from one authoritarian figure to another less menacing one."

Many of the attitudes expressed here by elderly voters supported claims by Professor Silvia Brucan, the main emcee grise behind the Front's campaign, that for many Romanians the December revolution was an uprising against Ceausescu and his dictatorship rather than against communism as such.

Ceausescu cemetery location confirmed

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

A MACABRE mystery which has obsessed Romanians since last Christmas Day was resolved at the weekend when Mr Gulu Voican, the deputy Prime Minister who played a leading role in the trial of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, confirmed the whereabouts of their secret graves.

The bodies of the hated dictator and his even more loathed wife lie in the leafy Ghencea public cemetery just south of Bucharest, curiously disguised under identical wooden crosses bearing the false names of supposedly dead reserve colonels in the Romanian Army.

Ceausescu, who was 72 when he was shot, is identified as "COL (R) Popa Dan 1920-1989" above an unintended grave which has for some time bewildered visitors to the cemetery as it has never received a single flower or candle. About 100 yards away, across a path leading to a chapel, the body of Elena, who screamed as she was shot after the rudimentary trial, lies in a similar, unintended grave below a wooden cross which declares falsely "COL (R) Enescu Vasile, 1921-1989".

Despite the recent showing on French television of a 90-minute documentary depicting the execution and the subsequent orthodox burial of the couple, it was only persistent questioning that persuaded Mr Voican to make his reluctant admission: "He is on the left-hand side of the path and she is on the right."

The disclosure, which spread through Romania's bush telegraph, has aroused fears that the graves will become targets of vandalism by a public still anxious to take their revenge on the couple, even after death.

Fear of popular reaction led the National Salvation Front to maintain the secrecy which was eventually broken for reasons which remain shrouded in the Balkan mists. "If you are going to the grave, take some garlic. Remember that our stories about vampires are true when they are about Ceausescu," said another Romanian.

Electoral small print baffles elderly

From Tim Judah, Snagov, Romania

IT IS 8am, and a crowd of 25 elderly peasants are jostling to get into the village of Snagov's small polling station. This is a rural constituency, 18 miles north of Bucharest. The president of the local electoral board sticks his head out of the door: "Please could the old people remember to bring their glasses. There's a lot of small print on the ballot papers."

Mr Cristinel Dumitrescu's admonition is a classic understatement. For the Chamber of Deputies, his constituents have a 24-page choice of 87 parties and independents. Most of the voters here are elderly, as the young people have gone to Bucharest or elsewhere, and many are illiterate.

Some are finding it rather heavy going. Mr Barbu Varga, a representative of the National Liberal Party, is helping out. He shows an elderly man a ballot paper for the presidential election. There are three boxes. He tells the man: "You take the stamp and make a print in the box of your choice." "So you mean that I put the stamp here?" the man says, pointing at the box for Mr Ion Iliescu, the candidate for the National Salvation Front. "You put it wherever you like," Mr Varga says in exasperation.

Slowly all the voters file through. Afterwards, they say: "It was easy. I found my party without a problem." But those who really have found it difficult to figure out the ballots have had friends or relatives to help them. This, Mr Dumitrescu points out, is quite legal. He brings out the rule book and points to Article 62 which says that "if, for well-grounded reasons an elector is unable to vote for himself and the chairman of the polling station bureau agrees, the former is entitled to have someone help him select to help him vote." But Mr Dumitrescu adds: "I'm not letting party members into the booths."

A roar rings out. The Liberal Mr Varga, is shouting at his National Salvation Front counterpart. He has spotted Mrs Niculina Preda pointing out to an old lady where the Front's boxes are. She protests: "But it's my mother!" He retorts: "Do it again and I'll report you."

Meanwhile, nine miles up the road in the village of Ciolpani, the local electoral board is taking a rather more liberal view of Article 62. First of all, there are no National Peasant Party representatives for Liberals here to guard against misdemeanours.

Mr Peter Alexandru, the Front representative, and Mr Ion Dobroie of the Romanian Socialist Democratic Party are taking it upon themselves to guide those who need help into the booths and aiding them to direct their stamps. Mr Dobroie's party is closely related to the Front. He says: "Everyone here is going to vote for either of our two parties."

Some voters are sent to booths with a designated "helper" if they say they don't know how to vote when asked. Mr Cosici Donsen, the chairman of Ciolpani's electoral board, defends these practices, saying: "This is our first democratic vote. Lots of people don't know what to do. And if, under these circumstances, representatives of the party want to help out, then that's okay with me."

Dictator's heirs get a stake in freedom

Bucharest

AMONG the voters who streamed to the polls in Romania's first free elections in more than half a century were the three children of Nicolae Ceausescu.

Nicu, Valentin and Zoia are awaiting trial on various charges of complicity in his terrifying 24 years in power. None was handcuffed as they appeared at a police station in southern Bucharest to vote.

Nicu, Ceausescu's youngest son and once destined to be his successor, voted first, spending several minutes in the booth before emerging and dropping a large envelope in a ballot box. He goes on trial next weekend on charges of complicity in genocide in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, 156 miles north-west of Bucharest, where he was regional Communist party chief until his arrest last December in the revolt that toppled his father.

Sporting a black beard and moustache and clad in jeans and a dark sweater, he declined to speak to reporters at his first public appearance since he was shown on television on the night of December 22, just after his capture.

Ceausescu's oldest son, Valentin, aged 43, a nuclear physicist, engineer, spent comparatively little time in the booth. "I'm treated like everyone else in prison, if you mean that can be fair," he said, smiling and looking relaxed.

"It is very difficult for me to say something concrete about the elections. It is good, however, that the people are given the chance to have more options," the state news agency Romsprea quoted him as saying.

Ceausescu's daughter, Zoia, aged 38, a mathematician, looked nervous and came out of the booth after only 20 seconds. She refused to make a statement. (AP)



Free vote: Valentin Ceausescu, eldest son of the executed dictator, casting his ballot in yesterday's election

Russian loyalists unite to fight Baltic independence

From Anatol Lieven, Riga

ON THE eve of a general strike by Russian workers in Estonia against independence, opposition forces in neighbouring Latvia began organizing a campaign of resistance. In Lithuania, the leadership is meeting today to draw up a fresh offer of compromise to be sent to President Gorbachov.

The strike by workers from Estonia's 39 per cent Russian-speaking population is expected to last several days. It is expected to be organized by the League being organized by the Workers' Collectives, which of workers' managers, trade unionists and Communist Party officials. To judge by a previous strike last August, it may paralyse the republic's transportation system.

Estonia, ironically invoking a Soviet law, has banned a Soviet strike, but it is difficult to see how this can be enforced in view of the dubious loyalty of the mainly Russian police force in Tallinn. Leaders of the Russian opposition may now face legal charges for demonstrations outside the Estonian parliament last Tuesday.

The Estonian government

has drafted plans to direct youths refusing Soviet military service into an auxiliary labour force to run essential services. After Tuesday's demonstration, thousands of Estonians volunteered to join a new unnamed Home Guard, heightening the possibility of clashes with the Russian opposition.

But the despatch of Soviet Interior Ministry troops to Estonia appears to have been halted after the government stated that the situation was under control.

In Latvia, opposition forces have held a conference to appoint a committee "for the defence of Soviet citizens". One of its tasks will be to organize future strikes, but there are no plans for general stoppages this week. Meetings are expected today to demonstrate support for the Russians in Estonia.

The conference sent a telegram to President Gorbachov asking for his help, and another to the United Nations declaring that the independence process is ignoring the interests of a large part of the Latvian population, who need

international help. A message to the congress of people's deputies of the Russian Federation declared: "Russia should know about the oppression of Russians in Latvia." Another letter, to Mr Boris Yeltsin, criticized him for expressing support for Baltic independence.

Another task of the committee will be to organize a signature campaign, calling for a referendum on Latvian independence. The Latvian independence movement is worried about such an exercise because ethnic Latvians only form 52 per cent of the population.

Several Russian speakers emphasized the need for additional organization in factories and neighbourhoods to agitate among the non-Latvian workers "who are still apathetic". This appears to be one reason no big strikes are planned immediately.

While Estonia and Latvia move towards confrontation with their Russian populations, Lithuania is striving for compromise. The leadership is meeting today to draft a letter to Mr Gorbachov.

MOSCOW COMMENTARY by Mary Dejevsky

Gorbachov's juggling act a test of nerve

FOR much of last week, Moscow was at the centre of three world news stories. Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was making what were intended to be the final preparations for the Washington summit; Soviet and Lithuanian leaders embarked on their first formal contact since the republic's declaration of independence on March 11; and the newly elected Russian Federation parliament met in full session for the first time, with the slim possibility that Mr Boris Yeltsin would be elected President of the republic.

The further the week progressed, the clearer it became that they were vitally linked, not only by President Gorbachov as the central figure, but because the course of any one would impinge directly on the other two. As a result, the week afforded a glimpse of the high-risk juggling act in which the Soviet leader is engaged.

Last week he had three balls in the air at the same time. He had just caught another two: the future of the Communist Party and economic reform. But these must be thrown in the air again in the next few weeks, and if just one falls they will all fall and the illusion of control will be shattered.

The direct link between the future of Lithuania and the future of superpower relations was there for all to see. Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, is convinced that her meeting with Mr

Gorbachov would not have taken place had not Mr Baker been in town. Mr Gorbachov, it is suggested, was concerned about the effect his refusal to talk to elected Lithuanian leaders was having on his image abroad.

Mr Baker noted at the end of his Moscow stay that the quality of the superpower relationship had changed "round about March 10-11" — that is, the weekend that Lithuania declared independence. Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said that he had been left in no doubt that the future of superpower relations depended on how Lithuanian independence was handled. He was paraphrasing the message conveyed earlier in Moscow by Senator Edward Kennedy, and in Washington by President Bush, that any untoward action would negate all recent advances in US-Soviet relations.

This is a price Mr Gorbachov cannot afford to pay, for it is the positive international atmosphere and the hope of further cuts in military spending and more extensive economic co-operation (or, to be more honest, assistance) that are his greatest achievements in five years of office. These — and only these — are helping to keep increasingly discontented sections of the Soviet establishment at bay. The hint from Washington that Moscow might not receive Most Favoured Nation status if the economic blockade against

Lithuania persists has been ignored by Moscow in public — which suggests its extreme political sensitivity. The volatile domestic situation may be the reason it was neither the question of Lithuanian independence nor the state of superpower relations that occupied most of President Gorbachov's time last week. From Wednesday onwards, he was to be seen in the gallery at the stormy meetings of the Russian Federation's congress of people's deputies. He followed the proceedings in minute detail, to the point where he knew precisely how many deputies had stood as a mark of respect when a telegram from the Lithuanian President was read out — 80 out of 1,000.

The congress is more evenly split between reformists and hardliners than had been expected, largely it seems because many deputies of centrist inclination have tired of being manipulated from the backrooms and want to exercise their fragment of power in support of change. Mr Yeltsin is the reformists' candidate for President of the Russian Federation and could, judging by some of the votes last week, just win.

A Yeltsin victory would be devastating for Mr Gorbachov. Not only has Mr Yeltsin promised to take the Russian Federation towards the sort of economic and political reforms that Mr Gorbachov considers destabilizing for the Soviet Union as a whole,

but his power as president of the largest and ethnically dominant republic would threaten the governability of the nation from Moscow. It would also affect the Baltic republics' chances of independence. Mr Gorbachov would have an opponent able to cut the ground from beneath his feet — and there is a limit to the number of presidential decrees which he can issue without losing the guise of a liberalizing leader.

Even if Mr Yeltsin is not elected, other tendencies for Mr Gorbachov to fear abound in the Russian Federation congress, the most striking being the outpouring of Russian nationalist feeling. Pressure from the floor compelled the chairman to agree to the placing of a Russian Federation flag on the platform; now, the day begins with a ceremony of honouring the flag. Any statement that snatches "Russia for the Russians" is cheered by reformists and conservatives alike.

In this atmosphere, Lithuania has become a symbol for both sides: the reformists say it should be allowed to secede, the hardliners say it should remain in a looser Soviet federation. Despite last week's frenetic activity, not one of the three pressing issues was resolved, and the deadlines had drawn that much closer. On the resolution of each hangs the resolution of them all: the future of President Gorbachov and the fate of the Soviet Union.

The de Klerk safari moves to Bonn in hunt for investment

By Michael Knappe, Diplomatic Correspondent

PRESIDENT de Klerk's European safari, aimed at persuading business and political leaders to underpin the economic development of post-apartheid South Africa, moved to Bonn yesterday after a successful four days in London.

The South African leader left London well satisfied with his discussions at Chequers on Saturday with Mrs Thatcher and his other meetings with bankers, industrialists and economists. He is now in his sixth European capital and is confident that he has convincingly conveyed the message that the process of change under way in South Africa is irreversible, and that a new reality exists that makes the issue of sanctions virtually redundant.

It was his impression, he said at a press conference in Chelsea on Saturday, that a number of European leaders were ready to re-evaluate the situation in South Africa. There was a definite move away from disinvestment, not only in Britain but in other countries too. He had found renewed interest in the fact that South Africa offered tremendous prospects for investment if one looked be-

yond "short-term unsolved problems". In the longer term, it was a market of great potential.

The only reservation he had encountered, he said, had been concern over possible nationalization. Potential investors wanted to be sure the economy would be market-oriented. "I think I've put their minds at rest," Mr de Klerk said. "I sincerely believe that, whatever the rhetoric of the moment, the full realization will dawn on everybody that the only way ahead, the only way of addressing the need for improving the quality of life of the people, will be by having a strong, vibrant and growing economy."

South Africa, he said, had a pivotal role to play in the economic development of southern Africa as a whole, and its economic growth was vital to meet the challenge of improving the quality of life for everyone in the region. The object of his visit had not been to address the question of sanctions. He was talking about a new reality. The dynamism of what was taking place necessitated the fundamental re-evaluation of policies and attitudes by gov-

ernments and individuals in Europe.

President de Klerk made it clear that Britain continued to have an important and constructive role to play in the transformation of South Africa. It was by far the largest investor, he said, and it had a deep historical involvement. He saw a constructive role for Mrs Thatcher in the developments taking place.

Asked when he expected to see blacks in government, President de Klerk said it would occur the minute a new constitution was brought into being. This would be followed by general elections in accordance with that new constitution. There was no question but that there would be full participation for all South Africans, regardless of colour. The removal of obstacles to negotiations with the African National Congress was firmly under way.

The South African Law Commission was working, not only on a Bill of Rights but also on various alternatives for a framework for the constitutional structures that would be necessary in a society as complex as South Africa's, Mr de Klerk said.



Parents carrying portraits of their murdered sons and daughters march in Paris, demanding the return of the death penalty, abolished in 1981, for child killers

Army remains key to power base in Peking

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

THERE is a popular story in China that the last conversation a year ago between Mr Deng Xiaoping and Mr Zhao Ziyang, then General Secretary, went something like this. Mr Deng: "How can you challenge me, I have an army of three million behind me?" Mr Zhao: "I have a billion Chinese behind me." Mr Deng: "Then you have nothing."

Mr Zhao was a Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission, but had no substantial support in the military, and in the end proved powerless against Mr Deng and President Yang. A year and a massacre later, with thousands of troops still stationed in Peking, China is in the grip of a military dictatorship and the Army remains the key to the country's future. Yet doubts about its loyalties persist.

Mr Li Peng, the Premier, was quoted yesterday on the front of the *People's Daily* as saying that, although China would continue with policies of reform, the security services would be beefed up at the same time to combat further unrest. Articles in the press have in past months emphasized that the Army must be prepared to do again what it did last June. Riot control may start with electric cattle prods, but analysts agree that, if it were a matter of life or death for the Communist Party, the Army would be ordered to open fire again.

Military analysts believe Mr Jiang Zemin, the leader of the Central Military Commission and the General Secretary of the Communist Party, has no authority within the Army. President Yang is still in effective control of the military and thus waits in the wings to become China's paramount leader on the death of Mr Deng. His assumption of power would mark a further militarization of the regime.

Some 3,000 cases of insubordination in the ranks arising from last June's massacre are believed to be under investigation by military tribunals. There have been personnel changes in what is believed to be an effort to weed out the less reliable. However, the young and educated officers brought into the Army in an effort to modernize it and make it more professional are believed to be less than happy about their role as political tools.

Since last May, troops have killed civilians not only in Peking but in the volatile Muslim-dominated region of Xinjiang in the north-west. Morale in the armed forces is known to be low.

Accounts of army disloyalty are not easy to substantiate. Some diplomats believe that Miss Chai Ling, the student leader who fled China some 10 months after the June 4 massacre, was aided in her escape by the Canton military. One account has it that, as the troops left Canton to take part in the martial law operation in Peking before June 4, their commander told them: "If you harm one hair on the students' heads, you are answerable to me."

The most believable scenario of events on the night of June 3 is that President Yang gave the order to open fire, but that it was questioned by the commander of the 38th Army. At that point, word came from Mr Deng himself that the troops should open fire.

However, no one has admitted that any such order was given. In the earliest official account last June, troops were described as opening fire on "hooligans" when they could endure no more harassment

from the crowd. Then, in what has come to be Peking's definitive account, the report by Mr Chen Xitong, the city's Mayor, two weeks later, troops were again described as being pushed beyond endurance, and being forced to "fire into the air".

Asked at a news conference who took responsibility, Mr Li refused to answer, except to refer his questioner to Mr Xitong's report.

The Army is thus left with the burden of guilt, and is not pleased. It is disappointed that the leadership will not take its part of the blame.

"It is impossible to predict now whether or not the Army would open fire again in the same circumstances," a Western diplomat said. "We believe that there would be enough loyal units to wreak havoc. But units who refused to obey an order to open fire would presumably end up taking up arms against the soldiers who do obey." That is the civil war scenario — a possibility, if a faint one, and a nightmare for those working for democracy.

A dissident in exile said that, unlike in Romania, in China the armed forces would split. "It would be very messy; many people would die. We want to avoid that."

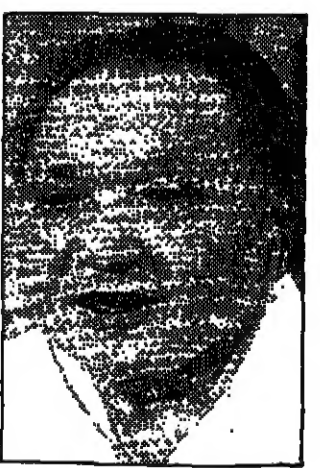
● Jiang pledge — In an interview aired in the US on Friday, Mr Jiang Zemin, the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, said that, next time, demonstrators would be cleared with water cannon and anti-riot gear. He said China was no longer pursuing students involved in last year's protests, and that he himself, as the then party secretary of Shanghai, had dealt with unrest by persuasion, not force. He said there had been no executions as a direct result of the Tiananmen Square protest.

Deng hold on power confirmed

Peking CHINA'S veteran leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, aged 85, still plays a big part in Chinese politics, state television reported yesterday, breaking official silence on his role since his quiet formal retirement in March.

President Yang Shangkun was quoted as saying while on a tour of Brazil that Mr Deng was no longer involved in the daily running of China but remained a central figure of the "second generation" leadership.

Mr Yang's comments were the leading item on state television's evening news broadcast and were clearly aimed at dispelling doubts among many of China's 1.1 billion people about Mr Deng's hold on power.



Mr Deng Xiaoping: Still playing a part at 85

Taiwan offers ties with a free China

From Our Correspondent, Peking

TAIWAN would establish full trade, economic and cultural relations with China if the mainland followed the example of the Soviet Union, renounced one-party dictatorship and established a free market, President Lee Teng-hui has said.

In his inauguration speech yesterday, the Taiwanese leader demanded that the Communist authorities in Peking "recognize the general trend of the world and common aspirations of all Chinese, practise democratic politics and the free economic system, give up the use of force in the Taiwan Strait, and refrain from obstructing our development of foreign relations."

At a time when even the Soviet Union was renouncing one-party dictatorship and Communism, said Mr Lee, "the Chinese Communists truly have no reason and no strength to continue to resist this trend". In return, Taiwan would be willing to "establish channels between the two sides on an equal basis to open fully academic, cultural, economic, trade, scientific and

technological exchanges". While the new conditions mark a change of wording from Taiwan's previous demands, they are not a big departure in spirit. There was no immediate reaction from Peking to Mr Lee's remarks, but China will probably reject the deal just as vociferously as it has previous suggestions.

The mainland has repeatedly stated that it has absolutely no intention of following the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe towards greater democratization. Nor would China agree to renounce the use of force in the Taiwan Strait, since it reserves the right to "reclaim" the island by any means.

President Lee also promised to declare an end to the 42-year-old "period of Communist rebellion" — technically a state of war with China — as soon as possible. He gave no timetable. Not only would this improve relations with the mainland, but it would herald democratization in the Taipei Parliament.

Bernard Levin, page 12

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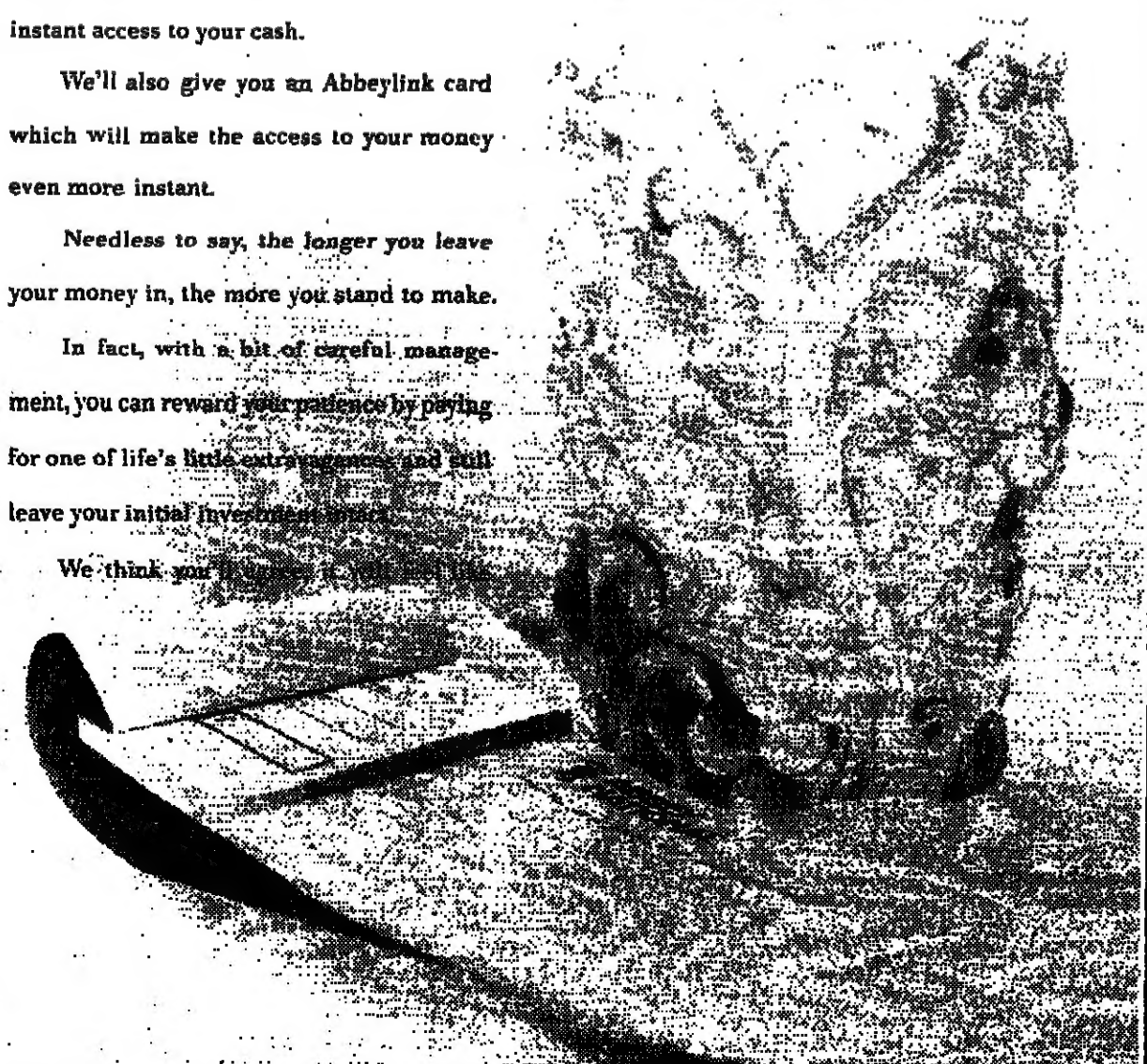
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Rebel ring of steel closing on Liberia's second city

From Philip Jacobson, Monrovia

AN ASSAULT by rebel troops on Buchanan, less than 100 miles from the Liberian capital, is believed to have begun over the weekend. Unconfirmed reports say that a substantial force of guerrillas moved out from their base in a nearby rubber plantation to penetrate the lightly-guarded perimeter around the country's second largest city.

While there has been no official response to these rumours — the Liberian authorities still do not admit that a single town has fallen to the guerrillas led by Mr Charles Taylor — Western sources here say that before radio contact with Buchanan was lost on Saturday afternoon, witnesses had reported fighting around their compound.

Twenty-four hours earlier I had flown into Buchanan in a light plane. As the Spanish pilot turned the aircraft around on the gravel strip so we could leave fast if need be, a handful of soldiers were cooking breakfast beneath the abandoned control tower.

The troops in Buchanan's outnumbered garrison were

decidedly edgy, patrolling the rutted roads in the centre with automatic rifles cocked and loaded, fiddling nervously with the egg-like green grenades according to local residents' descriptions are mounting rapidly: scared youngsters, sometimes forcibly enlisted, simply strip off their uniforms, abandon their weapons and melt into the crowd.

From the air, we were just able to see the occupied plantation through the heat haze, and the all-weather road that runs from it straight into the heart of the town. On both sides, dense scrub and heavy vegetation provide perfect cover for infiltrating an attacking force.

On the town's northern outskirts, the main road linking Buchanan to the capital crosses a bridge spanning the St John River. This crucially important point on the route for supplies and reinforcements was guarded by half a dozen drowsy privates, some looking no more than 16 or 17 beneath their outside steel helmets. It was clear that a white face had already become a rarity in Buchanan.

"What you doing, boss?" they asked me. "What you think, boss, are they coming to fight us?" They all had M16 rifles, bandoliers of machine-gun bullets, a grenade launcher or two, but their painful lack of training — some had only fired a dozen shots before arriving at the front line — and rock-bottom morale made them easy meat for a guerrilla force that appears to be winning hearts and minds as well as battles out in the sweltering bush.

We wanted to meet the local army commander, but he had gone to Monrovia that morning for an emergency meeting with President Doe. "Good job for you, boss, he don't like the foreign press," said an obliging taxi driver: Buchanan's police chief was not available either and the Mayor let it be known that a journalist's visit at this moment would not be appreciated.

Back at the airstrip, the same troops, who were preparing another meal, cadged a few cigarettes and a little beer money before they waved us off with a smile. As the aircraft climbed away, banking across the superb natural harbour of Buchanan, we could see the empty road to Monrovia. About 50 miles away it runs past the country's only international airport, at Robertsfield. The Government does not need the advice of the US military adviser who was down in Buchanan last week to know that this will be Mr Taylor's next objective: the first clash anywhere near Robertsfield would instantly halt all commercial flights, tightening the rebel noose around the capital.

So if Buchanan really is in danger of changing hands, President Doe faces the stark choice either of mounting an immediate counter-attack with his best and most loyal units, or preparing for a fight to the death in the capital.



Mr Charles Taylor, the Liberian rebel commander, with his troops, the Black Scorpions, preparing their strategy at Tapeta, 130 miles north of Monrovia

Florence counts toll of transfer

From Paul Beaupre, Rome

POLICE in full riot equipment patrol the once-quiet streets of Florence, armed personnel carriers are parked in key spots. Two hundred extra police arrived yesterday from Bologna and Rome to reinforce the local garrison. Tourists look on unconcernedly, until a taxi driver, hotel porter or taxi driver explains: "They sold Baggio," and, after a bitter sigh, "to Juventus".

The net result, so far, of selling Baggio is 50 injured, and more than 50 arrested. On Friday the team management of Fiorentina announced that Roberto Baggio, its striker and star scorer, had been transferred to Juventus, the Turin team owned by the Agnelli family of Fiat renown, for the record sum of 24 billion lire (£12 million).

Within minutes hundreds of Fiorentina supporters, in particular squads of the "Ultras", youths with vaguely Fascist leanings, took to the streets and tried to storm the Fiorentina headquarters and the home of Count Slavo Pontello, head of the family that owns Fiorentina.

There followed two nights and two days of street fighting and feuds, with police using batons and tear gas against crowds throwing stones and bottles.

Florence's chief of police said: "The city is an accomplice of the hooligans. While we were charging we were being pelted with stones and flowerpots from the balconies of the houses. They were even hiding the hooligans in their cellars."

Trial verdict enrages blacks

From James Rose, New York

SPORADIC violence broke out in New York at the weekend after a jury acquitted one of the defendants in the Bensonhurst racial killing of murder charges.

Federal prosecutors said they were considering whether to file federal civil rights charges against the man after a new witness came forward claiming to have seen the murder.

Keith Mondello, aged 19, was described as his trial as the ringleader of a gang of whites who set on Yusuf Hawkins, a 16-year-old black youth who entered the Italian-American enclave to buy a used car. But, after 11 days of deliberations, a Brooklyn jury found that he did not instigate the attack and cleared him of murder and manslaughter charges. He was convicted of lesser charges for which he faces up to 24 years in jail.

A day earlier, a separate jury found his co-defendant, Joseph Fama, also aged 19, who was accused of firing the fatal shot, guilty of murder.

The Mondello verdict outraged many blacks. In the small hours of Saturday, a group of more than a dozen blacks beat two white men near Times Square, shouting "For Yusuf" and "White boys, you don't belong here".

When the victims ran away, the gang assaulted four other white men and a man and woman who tried to intervene. They suffered minor cuts and bruises. Police arrested four members of the

gang, aged from 19 to 39. A separate gang of about 15 blacks set on two white men in the Canarsie area of Brooklyn, crying "Mondello got off". One of the men was robbed and suffered a broken nose. No arrests were made.

The same night, three television vans covering reaction in East New York, the mainly black area of Brooklyn where Hawkins lived, were attacked by protesters throwing bricks and bottles. Other protesters

sacked a Korean-owned delicatessen.

Tension was inflamed by revelations by a woman identified only as "Maria", who claimed to have seen the Bensonhurst murder. She said she heard Mondello tell Fama: "Shoot him, he's just a nigger." "If he hadn't said 'Shoot him', Fama wouldn't have shot him," she said. The woman was rebuffed by a court clerk last week because she refused to give her name.

Death threats to Rio police chief

From Louise Byrne, Rio de Janeiro

POLICE corruption and the massacre of nine people in a drugs war have greeted the new civil police chief in Rio de Janeiro. Just two weeks after taking office, Senhor Heroldo Gomes has received death threats, as his predecessors had done.

Last Wednesday 23 people were murdered in greater Rio de Janeiro, making it the most violent day of the month so far. The killings came two days after Senhor Gomes detained five members of his anti-kidnapping squad, accusing them of abduction and murder, and three days after nine people died in an apparent dispute over drug selling points. Police now expect a revenge massacre.

Most of Rio's violence takes place in an area known as the Baixada Fluminense, nearly 500 square miles of lowland between the coast of Rio de Janeiro and the Atlantic forest 30 miles inland.

Last year, 7,654 people were murdered in Rio, most of them in the Baixada, away from the city centre and the tourist districts.

Nearly three million of the

city's poor live in the Baixada, an area where there are not enough jobs, schools, hospitals — or enough police stations and court houses. The Baixada, a microcosm of Brazil's problems, is one of the most violent places on earth.

Much of the violence is carried out by the police themselves who form death squads and often see themselves as *justiceiros* (vigilantes), there to meet out punishment. A *justiciero* can be paid as little as \$30 (£18) to kill someone. Many of the victims are criminals who have committed anything from theft to rape, but they may also be guilty of nothing more than entering into an argument with the wrong person. As well as murder, the death squads are often party to other crimes, particularly drug trafficking.

A report by a special police commission revealed last month that more than half the death squads under investigation were linked to the city's civil or military police. Of the 76 names given by the commission, 39 were those of policemen or former policemen, informants of the police, ex-justice officials and two military men. Most of the 39 have been charged, but are not being held in custody. Many have not been detained due to the lack of witnesses.

In the Baixada a rule of silence reigns. Witnesses to murder will never admit it. Those who know a murderer will not tell and those who know nothing pray it continues that way. Most of the murders are carried out by "unknowns" because those who could speak out live in fear. To ask for police protection is tantamount to announcing oneself as an open target.

The so-called "law of silence" has helped make it difficult for the authorities to charge members of death squads. Police chiefs believe murders are often carried out to destabilize the authorities and local government.

Beside one of the bodies which greeted a former senior policeman, Senhor Helio Saboya, when he took office in 1987 was a defiant note which said: "Long live the great Saboya! Let's fight violence!"

Senhor Gomes said: "Crime here is the product of a contrast: the show of wealth where great poverty exists."

Castro may make video for defence of Noriega

New York
PRESIDENT Castro of Cuba may give videotaped testimony as a defence witness in the trial of the ousted Panamanian leader, General Manuel Noriega. *The New York Times* has reported.

"Fidel said he wants to help and is willing to do whatever he can to show Noriega is innocent," a defence lawyer, Mr Frank Rubino, said.

Mr Rubino visited President Castro last month to gather documents that will help efforts to show that General Noriega carried out many apparently illegal activities in connection with his clandestine work for the US Government. (AFP)

Macau pledge

Hong Kong — Thousands of civil servants in the Portuguese enclave of Macau will be guaranteed government posts at equivalent rank in Portugal after the territory reverts to Chinese control in 1999.

Poll unfair

Cairo — An Egyptian court has ruled that members of Parliament had been improperly chosen because party lists discriminated against independent candidates, prompting opposition calls for new elections. (Reuters)

Death demand

Kuwait — Prosecutors have demanded the death penalty for four people accused of trying to overthrow the Kuwait Government with a bombing campaign which killed several people. (Reuters)

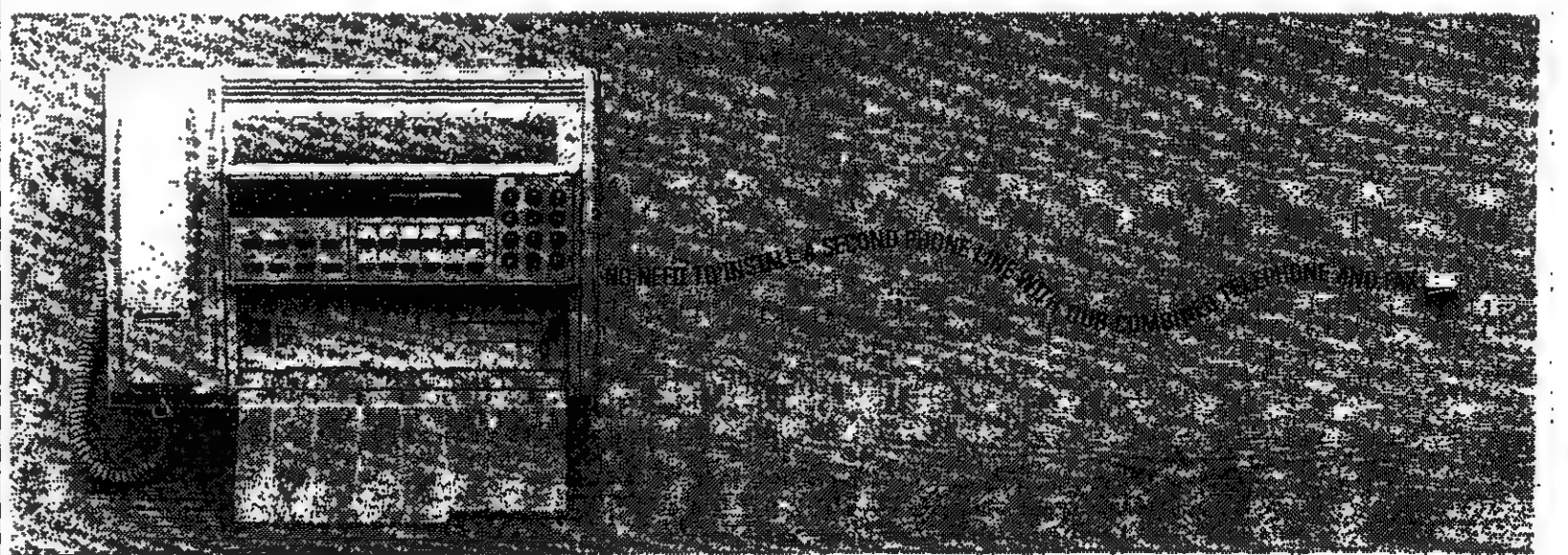
Drugs guilt

Texas, Oklahoma — José Abello, aged 35, the first of 15 Colombian nationals extradited to the US to face drug charges, was convicted on two counts of conspiracy to import and to distribute marijuana and cocaine. (Reuters)

Polio 'example'

Rome — The Pope beatified Pier Giorgio Frassati, a Catholic activist who died of polio, aged 24, in 1925, as an example "to the young wishing to offer a concrete contribution to the spiritual renewal of our world."

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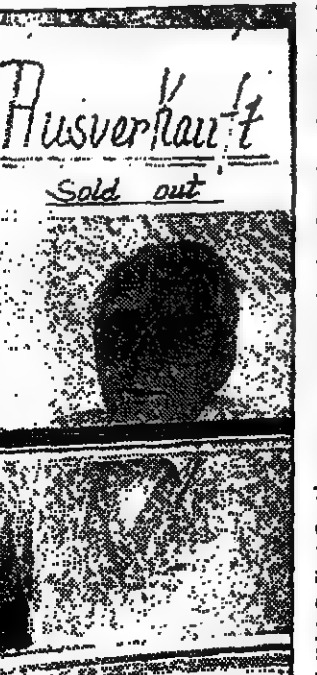
From Ian Murray, Oberammergau

A BIG police investigation is underway in the wings of the Passion Play here to try to discover what has happened to DM2 million (£730,000) for the sale of non-existent tickets to two British firms.

For some time, the play has been a sell-out for its run until September, even though its first public performance only takes place today. Travel agencies have been vying with each other to take up any cancellations for the once-a-decade spectacle. Trafalgar Travel and Leger Travel of Rotherham believed they had 20,000 of the available tickets between them. They had booked their clients into the best hotel in the village, the Alois Lang, and had paid the DM2 million to the manager, Herr Heinrich Hörath.

But last Friday, before the first press performance, their representatives discovered the tickets did not exist. They stormed into the Burgermeister's office and demanded that he organize extra performances on Thursdays, which is one of the two rest days, so that their customers would not be disappointed.

The play committee said after an urgent meeting that it had "established the fact that the travel agencies were careless not to inform themselves through official channels and instead to make down-payments in millions to the hotel". The committee was particularly scathing about Le-



House full: Yesterday's box-office message

ger Travel for offering tickets to Thursday performances, even though it had been known for two years that this was to be a rest day.

The committee called in the State Attorney to investigate and said that nobody need worry who was coming, provided they had bought a ticket through the town's issuing office.

Herr Hörath said he had been questioned and had told the police he had simply acted on behalf of a Munich businessman, Herr Merckl,

who told him he had the necessary tickets. The hotel paid the money to him in good faith. "What could I do?" Herr Hörath said. "I thought everything was all right."

In the village, which has tried so hard this year to make the production one of reconciliation, the scandal is weighing heavily. "It is a black day for us all," said Frau Juliane Margraf, spokeswoman for the play committee. "We have worked so hard to make our play right this time, and now we have to face this."

Rumours and suspicion are rife in the village. Some claim that a local travel agency, jealous of the village monopoly on ticket sales, had deliberately tried to bring the play into disrepute. Others say a leading villager has suddenly disappeared to Austria in the past week. There are now suggestions that other European countries and the US may also have been involved, although no evidence has so far been produced.

Before the ticket scandal, the play had already caused bitter dissension. The decision to allow a married woman to play the Virgin Mary had shocked traditionalists. The Constitutional Court was asked to rule on the issue, and decided that a married woman could play the part.

With the ticket scandal, the scene when Christ empties the temple of the money-changers and merchants, shouting angrily that they profane his Father's house, has taken on a particular poignancy.

Wakeham to the rescue

Ronald Butt

Ms Thatcher's decision to make John Wakeham responsible for co-ordinating government information may be useful both to her and to the media. When confusion over government policy reigns (as it has often done recently), it is helpful for the media to be able to speak to a minister who has a relationship with the Cabinet as a collective body because he is a part of it.

Such an arrangement provides an extra dimension of information to that available from Bernard Ingham, the press secretary at 10 Downing Street, who speaks primarily for Mrs Thatcher, although he is also responsible for co-ordinating the information offices in Whitehall at the civil service level.

For the Cabinet generally it is likewise helpful to have one of its number standing at the inward bridge of public relations, listening to the questions from the media and judging from them where the areas of political danger lie. Even for Mr Ingham, who has often been accused of acting too politically for a civil servant, Mr Wakeham's appointment has its uses. Since Lord Whitelaw retired from the Cabinet there has been no minister co-ordinating government information, and Mr Ingham has often been painfully exposed to political criticism. It would not be surprising if he thought that his position will be more comfortable, and his influence no less, with Mr Wakeham in political charge.

This said, the fact remains that Mrs Thatcher's new attention to public relations is no more than one of the conventional storm signals of politics. When policies have gone wrong and cabinets have failed to think out their policies clearly, the instinctive reaction of prime ministers, and their colleagues, is to say, not that the policies may be wrong, but that they are ill co-ordinated or badly explained. That idea goes back at least to the appointment by Harold Macmillan of the then Dr Charles Hill (famous as the wartime Radio Doctor who advised his listeners with early candour about the state of their insides) as co-ordinator of government information services after the Suez debacle.

Reminiscing on his appointment, Lord Hill of Luton, as he became, did so with characteristic candour. "When things go well," he wrote, "the responsible ministers blow out their chests with pardonable pride at the success of the policies which they, in their wisdom, have laid down. When things go badly, they look for an alibi, shrinking from the thought that their policy could conceivably have been foolish. Clearly the fault must lie in... its presentation... Never, it seems, does the fault lie in what is being done."

However, effective co-ordination of information does of course

matter, and Mr Wakeham is a good choice for the job. He was a successful chief whip, has performed well as Energy Secretary and, most importantly, he has Mrs Thatcher's trust as a colleague who is both loyal and not a potential competitor for Number Ten. It may well be that with a minister occupying this vantage point, government policy will better avoid embarrassments of the kind which have, for example, recently involved the Scottish Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, both over the Budget poll tax concessions and the future of Ravenscraig.

But in the end, what will determine the Government's future is the success or failure of its policies, economic and social. The best possible co-ordination and presentation of policy is likely to avail little if, for instance, inflation is not visibly being overcome before the general election and if the Government cannot convince the nation that the worst grievances over the poll tax can be redressed.

The same is true of the Government's increasing preoccupation with the mechanics of its general election campaign. Of course, it is natural that, as the election draws closer, planning should begin. In consequence there is now an argument about whether a special team of senior cabinet ministers should begin work on preparing the manifesto this summer or whether it would be better to wait until after the autumn Conservative conference, which is the party chairman's apparent preference.

The one thing that seems clear is that Mrs Thatcher intends to exert control over the exercise, whenever it starts. That is hardly surprising. Prime ministers always largely do so, and one as dominant as Mrs Thatcher is hardly likely to refrain. But more than usually, the next Tory manifesto, like government policy between now and the election, needs to have a strong, collective Cabinet basis. The blunt reality is that it will be a manifesto not only for Mrs Thatcher's continued prime ministership, assuming the Tories win the election, but also for the person who takes over from her some time during the next parliament.

It is a manifesto which above all needs fresh thinking, unrestrained by vested interests in previous thought. "One should never be tied to a dogma if it is a piece of mechanism. If it is a principle, that is different," Harold Macmillan once observed. That is not a bad maxim for Mrs Thatcher to go by in the coming months.

As for the techniques of presentation and co-ordination of policy, it is not they that are decisive in the rise and fall of governments but rather the sensitivity of ministers' political antennae and their ability to understand, and act upon, the signals they hear.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

It goes without saying that a rational man does not insure. Every tinkling fountain in the foyers of the insurance companies' City palaces testifies to the difference between what you pay in and what you are likely to get back. If the actuary has his sums right, the odds are against you. As Keynes said, to insure is to gamble: you lose modestly on every outcome but the least probable - on which you will be wealthy. No more than at Monte Carlo can you influence the result.

Or can you? May brings the rustle of renewal notices slipping through doors. To each is pinned a little note explaining that "recent storms" have pushed up claims, so premiums too have been increased, many of them quite sharply.

Storms? A builder friend in Derbyshire complained to me that it had been a bad year. "What?" I said. "Surely these storms have brought you no end of repair work?"

"Not me," he said. "I won't do it. The word is out that insurers are paying up with no questions asked on any claim below £1,000. Builders and clients are getting together to invent claims, exaggerate claims, or pretend that dry rot was storm damage. Everyone's doing it."

I too have noticed a slow shift in polite standards in these matters. "Respectable" morality moves always a few paces behind the out-and-out cheats. Once, strict honesty was the norm, while cheats exaggerated their claims. But cheats got bolder, insurers got wiser, and settlements started lagging behind claims. So "respectable" people started overstating claims, with a view to securing a final payout which was a fair compromise. But that is a slippery slope. At a supper party recently someone said she had been robbed on holiday, but in circumstances which the small print of her policy excluded. As she thought this was unfair, she had invented a robbery in other circumstances - ones which were not excluded.

"But it wasn't dishonest," she said, "because I was only trying to get back what I lost." Some at the table agreed with her. The next step is to invent a

claim this year because you forgot to insure last year. Then you might go on to make a bogus claim on the grounds that you had lost heavily on the swings of life and here was your roundabout.

Last week I heard a fellow say this - quite seriously: "Everyone else is cheating on insurance these days, and that's making the premiums for honest people like me go up. I pay for their dishonesty. So I reckon making a fraudulent claim of my own is the way to get some of it back from the cheats."

Underlying this statement is an observation whose truth is undeniable. The one party that cannot, in the end, be robbed is the company. It simply raises its premiums. It may follow that if everyone cheats on insurance, less injustice is done than if only some people do. In the latter case, we effect a real transfer of wealth from honest policy-holders (whose premiums go up) to dishonest ones.

But if everyone cheats, then all we have done is to increase the velocity with which money circulates - from premium, to company, to payout, to premium... Sadly, however, this theoretical merry-go-round is imperfect as millions of honest people will never climb aboard. They are losing out, at present. They deserve protection.

The ideal solution is to outlaw all insurance. As with other harmful additions, the ban would not be welcomed by those in whose interest it was imposed, but would have other benefits. Insurance is anti-risk, and wholly anti-Thatcherite, creating mini-collectives whose members are insulated from error or ill-fortune and leached of the rewards of effort.

But I do not think Mrs Thatcher is ready for this. Insurers will survive. Can't we, though, insist that they more mercilessly pursue and prosecute the fraudsters?

But it is not in their interests to do this. What company wants a reputation for sending the police round to its policy-holders? Easier by far to let its honest customers pay. The cheats are in an unwitting league with the directors of the insurance companies. You and I are the victims.

David Willetts calls for a coherent Conservative policy in time for the general election

Put the family in the foreground

Conservatives have long claimed to be the party of the family. Now they are engaged in an increasingly lively debate about what this means in policy terms.

Different government departments have such conflicting interests that it is not easy to create a coherent overall policy. Some ministers responsible for organizations with many female employees, such as nurses and teachers, pressed John Major for more help for working mothers in the last Budget; other ministers are nervous about the long-term social consequences.

The Treasury boasts of independent taxation for husbands and wives but opposes introducing such a principle into the benefit system because of the cost. These tensions underlie the argument about community charge rebates for non-working wives.

In the past fortnight we have had a host of disparate statements on the family - the Treasury on pursuing absent fathers for maintenance, Lord Mackay on divorce, Lord Joseph on child tax

allowances, Kenneth Baker on family values, and the Prime Minister herself on the dangers of very young children spending too much of their time in crèches.

These remarks must be pulled together into a coherent view of the family. If it is done thoughtfully, the family will prove an attractive theme for the next manifesto. Here are some ideas which should provide the basis for a Conservative family policy.

All is not well with the traditional family, and that is a bad thing. One in four births is illegitimate and one in three marriages ends in divorce. Saying that this is a bad thing is not to sentimentalize the traditional family. All the research shows that it is best for children to be brought up within a stable, two-parent family. Moreover, that is what most people in Britain still aspire to, even if it is more difficult to sustain in practice.

We are not just in the grip of inexorable social forces. Admittedly, anyone who doubts government ability to intervene successfully in industry must be humble

about what it can do to influence patterns of family life. Nevertheless, social behaviour is affected by the rewards and penalties which surround it. No government can be neutral here.

Any man who fathers a child takes on a financial responsibility which he cannot escape. In theory we have always been able to oblige absent fathers to pay maintenance, but the practice has been very different. We need a new streamlined system with direct access to the absent father's paypacket via the Inland Revenue. The Revenue used to oppose such measures but the Prime Minister has ensured this will now be done.

The 1960s consensus that quick and easy divorce was in the best interests of all parties is increasingly open to doubt. Experts now say that we have underestimated the damage done to children by divorce. Moreover, a surprising number of people who get divorced then regret it. The problem seems to be that once an unhappy couple approach a lawyer they are driven to divorce as inexorably as the military mobilizations in the

summer of 1914 led to war. We need more diplomatic channels to enable people to escape an apparently inevitable divorce.

There are excessive financial pressures on mothers to go back to work quickly, perhaps sooner than they would like. Some policy-makers believe we need to get young mothers back into the workforce as soon as possible because of a supposed demographic crisis. Hence we are stuck with a tax system that disproportionately favours two-earner couples. It is unfair to put intense financial pressure on young mothers to return to work when they want to spend more time with their children. Furthermore, the demographic argument is short-sighted. A society which presses women back into the workforce so quickly gives a low value to motherhood and has a low birth-rate. In the long run the demographic pressures in the labour market worsen.

Instead, the tax and benefit systems need to do more to help families, particularly young ones. I would favour a higher rate of child

benefit for the under-fives, financed out of savings on that for the over-fives. This would give help to families when they really need it - families with young children tend to have only one earner, and are thus poorer.

Another approach, advocated by Lord Joseph in a CPS pamphlet last week, is to bring back the child tax allowance. This would boost the parents' take-home pay when their child was born - precisely when they most need help. Moreover, it would reflect the traditional Inland Revenue doctrine, going back to Pitt the Younger, that couples with children have a lower taxable capacity than people on the same income without family responsibilities.

Together, these ideas would create a strong family theme in the next Conservative manifesto. They are not a reactionary attempt to go back to a pattern of social behaviour that has long since disappeared. They are in tune with the instincts and values of most people in this country.

The author is director of studies at the Centre for Policy Studies.

A small voice of freedom sunk but not silenced

Bernard Levin considers Peking's heavy-handed reaction to the Goddess of Democracy truth-ship

Sir Isaac Newton maintained that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and admirers of Sir Isaac will be encouraged to learn that I entirely agree with him. I have watched this systole-diastole pattern for most of my life, in the form of repression-freedom-repression-freedom, and I have never seen the pattern broken. In a sense, it is the most important principle in the world, and if it should ever be falsified, chaos is come again.

Newton's law, applied to liberty and its enemy, means that a denial of freedom will always bring forth an assertion of it. Of course, there may be a considerable time-lag before the pressure for freedom is successful; just as the freedom-lovers increase their demands upon the freedom-haters, these in turn increase the harshness of their rule and the determination to retain it. But as against that, we in freedom's camp know that time is always on our side.

Apart, perhaps, from a few of the more barbaric lands of Africa and the Middle East, the most repressive country in the world at present is China. Through the long years of Mao and his Gang of Four, the Chinese people were powerless to resist, as were the Russian people in the years of Stalin's slaughter - both, incidentally, admired and praised by British fellow-travellers. But the moment the inner pressure dropped, the outer pressure made itself felt; the nascent movement for democracy in China grew rapidly, and its voice could be heard right round the world. For every action... well, we know how the first round ended, in Tiananmen Square. What many may not know is that there was a second round.

Before the murderers moved in, the young people who were in the van of the movement built an imitation Statue of Liberty. It was a bit wonky, and bulged in the wrong places, but its heart was sound, and they named it the Goddess of Democracy. The tanks rolled over it, those who sent them having forgotten that all the tanks

in the world cannot crush thought, belief or hope. Soon after the blood and corpses were removed, some of the men and women in the democracy movement escaped from China, while others went underground. Between the two groups an idea was born: to charter a ship, moor it near the Chinese mainland, though in international waters, and broadcast the truth into the vast prison-house, to sustain the resistors and give them hope. And the ship was to be named the Goddess of Democracy. Most of the dissidents who managed to get out have settled in France, and it was in France that the plans were drawn up; in a surprisingly short time the ship was ready to sail.

And sail she did. Alas, she needed help for this reckless, forlorn endeavour. She got it initially from the French authorities, but they really had no alternative; the last time they had anything to do with an unofficial freedom vessel they blew it up, murdering one of the crew in doing so, and then treated the murderers as heroes. Singapore seems to have behaved well, allowing the Goddess to dock without difficulty.

That was not enough; the help of Taiwan was essential, and its rulers, after blowing hot and cold for weeks, decided that to curry favour with Peking was more important than democracy, not that they know much about that. They have impounded the ship's transcripts, and made virtually impossible the final stage of her heroic journey. The Goddess of Democracy, it seems, was prayed to in vain.

But of course it was not in vain, for this story is not really about the Goddess of Democracy. It is about the rulers of China. As the ship sailed into Eastern waters, it was met with harassment from Chinese ships, and - more ominous - a series of threats; the Chinese refused to rule out violence against the ship, which was unarmed, and had no intention of venturing into Chinese territorial waters. Yet the Chinese rulers



behaved as though a vast fleet was approaching, equipped with nuclear rockets and troops.

The hysteria had begun many weeks ago, when the Chinese said they would not "tolerate" the presence of the ship off their coasts, following this with formal protests to France. Next, they claimed that Taiwan was in the plot, though there was nothing resembling a plot anywhere in the whole business. There had been no attempt to conceal or disguise the intention of the project's organizers, which was to broadcast to China music, news and statements in favour of democracy. One such statement was to be a

pre-recorded message from Chai Ling, one of the leading dissidents, who managed to escape arrest and certain death, and finally found sanctuary in Paris.

Chai Ling - how many divisions has he? The Chinese behaved as though he had hundreds; early on in the project, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Office, one Li Jinhua, said: "The activities of this ship are aimed at subverting the people's government." Later on, another such spokesman said that the ship was "an attempt to overthrow the government", and as the dreadnought came nearer to China, the government put up a journalist, Li

Those banners must, for the moment, be hidden. The Goddess, however, was a visible, audible presence, signalling the truth; that the days of tyranny may be many, but are numbered. That, surely, explains the raving response; and if a pin-prick can provoke such ravings, what will they do when pneumatic drills are at work on the foundations?

For the moment, they are in control. The ship's voyage is over, and the terrible threat it posed has passed; any Chinese citizen saying a good word for it will be in a concentration camp by nightfall. But outside the wire, Newton's truth will remain, as equal and opposite as ever.

Papageno goes to Frisco

The weather forecast looks fair for tonight's opening of the Glyndebourne season. But if squalls do not disturb the interval picnics on the lawn, they may not be absent inside the opera house, where this season's programme comes as near to controversy as this hallowed institution of British summertime is ever likely to get. Peter Sellars's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, which opens the season, is set in the never-never land of 1960s California drug culture, where Mozart's fairy tale could easily take place without the hippies

noticing and a feather-clad Papageno would blend perfectly with the sartorial background. Glyndebourne members have already been warned that the production may not be to everyone's taste, and a number, taking the hint, have returned their tickets. In another break with purism, Sellars has unceremoniously discarded the opera's German dialogue.

Later the season will see the British premiere of Sir Michael Tippett's fifth opera, *New Year*, which looks set further to fuel fears that Glyndebourne is going pop. In the June issue of *Opera Now*, Tippett reveals that much of the inspiration for the opera came from a performance by Dire Straits at the Nelson Mandela birthday concert at Wembley. The band's leader, Mark Knopfler, stepped forward at the end of the performance and uttered the words: "One humanity, one justice." Tippett says he found it "very moving... thousands of

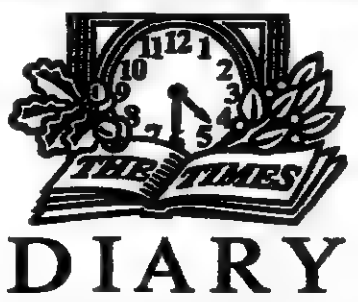
people still and just those four words". However, the pop star is unlikely to be present at the first night of the opera he inspired. The day before, he and his band will exhaust themselves at that other great outdoors musical event of the British summer season, the Knebworth festival.

Alluring prospect

So John Wakeham is to be Cabinet whipping boy for the Government's "poor presentation". But why take on this awful job when just a month ago he was assuring friends he had had enough of the pressure of high office and would stand down at the end of this parliament? Indeed, he went further and muttered that in the Siberian extremity of Energy Secretary he was "more like a merchant banker", handing goodies on a plate to his former political friends in the City. Mrs Thatcher was so shocked at the prospect of losing yet another minister that she promptly offered him more purpose in life and a higher profile. But why take this job? Was the prospect of spitting Kenneth Baker's guts as party chairman too much for Wakeham to resist?

Pas d'immobile

The Musicians Union has done it again. Because of its inflexible rulebook, ballet-goers will not now see the American Ballet Theatre's production of *Brief Fling*, which received rave reviews from US critics. Twyla Tharp's ballet, which was due to open at the Coliseum in July as part of the ABT's 50th anniversary tour, is set to music by American composer Michael Colomer.



interspersed with that of the late Percy Grainger. Because of the rapid switch from one to the other, attempts to play it live in New York proved impossible, and the cast danced to a tape while the orchestra took a breather.

Despite letters from Colomer supporting the use of the tape,



Jack Stoddart of the Musicians Union in Britain says: "My listening convinced me that it could be played live. We oppose all taped instrumental music - that is the union's policy, and we are not prepared to negotiate." But the union has backtracked over *In the Upper Room*, which the ABT dances to a taped electronic soundtrack by Philip Glass, on the

grounds that it is not orchestral music. Many music-lovers would no doubt agree with Stoddart's verdict: "Electronic sounds, voices and goodness knows what - all totally incapable of orchestral performance."

Harrow arrows

Three days before hordes of the great and the good gather tomorrow week for Eton's 550th anniversary, crowned with a visit by the Queen, Harrow, a mere 418 years old, is quietly holding its own annual speech day. Harrovians are putting a brave face on being so upstaged, pointing out that they, too, had the Queen 18 years ago on their 400th anniversary. With a board of governors chaired by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, and including a clutch of Rothschilds, assorted dukes and duchesses and Lady Soames, daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, there will be plenty of distinguished people to lend the day tone - and there may even be a whiff of controversy in the air.

In accordance with tradition, the headmaster, Ian Beer, will speak on a specific educational subject - and this year the National Curriculum seems the obvious subject with which to steal Eton's thunder. John Ingram, a senior master, says: "We feel that the Curriculum is watering education down, looking for parity rather than excellence." And how is Harrow implementing the great educational reform? "We will pick whatever we like from it," says Ingram.

At Eton, meanwhile, security for the big day is being tightened in a thoroughly Etonian way. Boys

are being instructed in the etiquette of chatting on the telephone to bomb hoaxers - or even, heaven forbid, the genuine article. "Ask the caller questions such as 'Where is the bomb? When will it explode? What sort of bomb is it? Who are you, caller?' The boy then bears the heavy responsibility of conveying the no-doubt equally polite replies to Security, either by telephone or messenger."

Old link maintained

Former senator William Fulbright, the "raw boy from Arkansas" who went to Oxford before he had glimpsed Washington or New York, is to open a new building at his alma mater, Pembroke College, next month. Now 84, Fulbright visited his old college while on honeymoon after remarrying last year, and will return in June with Senator Dick Lugar of Indiana, another Pembroke man. Both are former chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a double which few American colleges can match. As one of Oxford's smaller colleges, Pembroke is understandably proud.

Its strong American links date from the days of alumnus James Smithson, illegitimate son of the first Duke of Northumberland, whose entire fortune went to Washington DC after his death in 1829 to found the Smithsonian Institute - though Smithson himself did not go to the US until his bones were taken there in 1904. A quadrangle in the new building will be named after Fulbright, whose family still keeps up its connection with the college. His grand-daughter, Julia Foote, is now studying there.

The training message decoded

David Tytler looks at the Training and Enterprise Councils and their vow to help make initiatives fit industry needs

There is a "spaghetti soup" of ideas confusing business and industry leaders who are eager to train school-leavers, but who often do not know where to begin. The point is best illustrated by Gregory Hyland, chief executive of one of the new, and so far, much criticized Training and Enterprise Councils, which have been charged to take responsibility for training from the Civil Service-run Training Agency.

In the period before his Thames Valley TEC assumed control at the beginning of April, Mr Hyland carried out a poll among employers in the area.

The poll found that 60 per cent had heard of the Youth Training Scheme, compulsory for all people over 16 without a job, and 60 per cent had made use of it.

As a check, Mr Hyland then invented a fictitious training scheme: 60 per cent of employers said they had heard of it, and 15 per cent said they were using it.

Mr Hyland, a former Army officer, says: "Most employers do not have a clue what is going on. They are very confused. There is a spaghetti soup of ideas out there."

The role of the TEC goes beyond administration of training schemes. "The job of the TEC is to make sure business knows what is on offer and what the issues are," Mr Hyland says.

"How many employers are looking at the international implications of competition and not just looking down the road at Acacia Avenue? You can only be successful in international competition if you have a high standard of training. We need to get people to get a bit more fire in their belly."

Critics of the TECs say they will be used to cut back on the amount of training money available, and that there is a danger they will be controlled by the employers.

The concern is perhaps understandable as two-thirds of the TEC board must comprise local businessmen at chief executive level, with one third coming from the rest of the community.



A firm training base now will help to meet European competition: Reg Renn instructs the trainees at the college's motor vehicle unit

Mr Hyland says this does not create problems. "There is a concern that TECs will be dominated by large businesses, who will then rip them off. I have seen no evidence of that whatsoever." He is more concerned that employers accept what he sees as their responsibility to become involved in training and pay their fair share.

"Everything we do is designed to get a more skilled workforce and to get employers to plan strategically. It is for the community to work together to improve standards in training."

The Thames Valley TEC is one of the first 10 of 82 planned in England and Wales with proposals

now approved for all but 11. Michael Howard, the Secretary of State for Employment, says: "We are now easily two years ahead of schedule. Wherever you look there is something positive happening, across the country more than a thousand people have been investing vast amounts of time and effort into getting TECs up and running."

He points out that the contribution from employers has gone up from £33 million in 1985-86 to £200 million in 1989-90, and adds: "At the same time the TEC will make training easier."

Under the old contract Mr Coltart was allowed about £40 a

week per trainee, now cut to £30. He says: "We have had to trim our sails but we are managing. We are non-profit-making but I imagine there could be difficulties if you were a business expected to make a profit."

Mr Hyland believes it is quite feasible for his managing agents who sign contracts to provide training in different areas to cope within the budget. He says: "There is a squeeze on money but the Government does not see itself withdrawing its share. I think employers should pay a fair share."

He stresses the importance of flexibility within the TECs. He says: "We can, for example, trade as a profit, which the Civil Service cannot, and we will be able to charge for some of the services we provide. We can decide how to spend our money, and that is so important. It might be better, for example, to spend £500 on a six-week course than to spread the money on a weekly basis."

The Thames Valley TEC has a budget of £11 million a year, of which £3 million is spent on training and £1.75 million on the entrepreneurial side. Mr Hyland believes that the efficient development of good ideas can stem only from people with quality training in their chosen field.

Mr Hyland says: "We want people to believe in building satellites; we want to do more than to increase the number of mobile hairdressers."

And if the overall is not clear he will move the boy student somewhere else.

Responsibility for the course now rests with the Thames Valley Training and Enterprise Council (TEC), an employer-based organization, which is now responsible for youth training. Mr Coltart's consortium is paid the £250,000 a year by the TEC to provide the course, which it in turn uses to buy training provided by the college in Windsor.

There have been many similar courses before, but the new system allows much more flexibility. The age limit has been raised from 17 to 19, and the course is likely to be extended from two to three years.

The course has very few failures in the second year, although nearly a quarter of the students drop out in the first 12 months. Virtually all students are found jobs in member garages, and most are given properly recognized apprenticeships.

Students occasionally have to be moved from garage to garage, sometimes because a job is no longer available, or the garage is not doing the training, or simply because the student and the management do not get on.

Tony Papworth, a 20-year-old who now works as a mechanic for a Jaguar dealer in Windsor, is a good example of the determination of both student and teacher. He had always wanted to work as a Jaguar mechanic. Neither of his first two placements — one was with a Lada dealer — was entirely successful, but he finally finished up with his Jaguars. His verdict: "I am very pleased."

GETTING PAID TO LEARN THE TRADE

IT is business as usual for the 186 boys — and four girls — on the training course for mechanics, storekeepers and panel-beaters taking the three-year motor trade course at the Windsor and Maidenhead College of Further Education.

They would probably be astonished to learn that the course, held by the East Berkshire Motor Trade Consortium, costs £250,000 a year to run.

The 302 garages in the consortium take between one and nine students each, paying them £29.50 a week in the first year and £35 in the second, guaranteeing 18 days' holiday a year and clean overalls every week.

Douglas Coltart, a former lecturer at the college in Windsor, who now runs the consortium, claims that in reality they are often paid far more.

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Heads count the cost of funding

The transfer of financial responsibility to schools is making some head teachers worry about the effects on staff numbers

One of the most emotive issues for governors and heads as they face their new responsibilities for day-to-day management of their schools is whether they will be able to afford to keep a full and experienced teaching staff (David Tytler writes). The Easter conferences of the classroom teachers' unions were dominated by stories of mass redundancies in Cambridge, Nottinghamshire and Bradford. National strikes were threatened in support of teachers facing possible compulsory redundancy. Local strikes are still a real possibility.

The teachers' unions claim the local management of schools (LMS), which passes management to governors and heads, will mean teaching staff cuts.

Under financial arrangements approved by the Government school budgets must be set on average, not actual, rates, which the unions suggest will force schools to lose their more expensive and therefore more experienced staff.

The recent report from the Commons Select Committee on Education, which recommended increased pay for the classroom teacher and a concerted campaign to improve morale in the classroom, picked up the same point and agreed with the critics.

The committee accepts that this could mean governors will shed experienced staff for younger, and therefore cheaper, staff, which in turn could damage morale and the quality of teaching and threaten the national curriculum, centre-piece of the reforms.

The threats and figures do, however, require close examination. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, says the issue is likely to be a main concern at this month's annual conference. He claims the Government is putting an unfair burden on schools in its budget arrangements, which he says are inadequate. He also believes that some local authorities are using the regulations to make staff cuts that they would

otherwise have had to face themselves. He is particularly critical of Nottinghamshire County Council, where talks between governors and unions are being held to shed about 60 teachers.

He says: "Rolls have fallen in secondary schools, and we may not need so many teachers. Teacher numbers are no longer based on pupil-teacher ratio but on curriculum needs. And this can work both ways."

"We may not need so many teachers for some subjects, but we need more for others. It may be that schools will say we can manage with fewer teachers."

"It seems that at least some of the redundancies demanded in Nottingham stem from this but I wonder whether they would be introduced. There is a danger that some local authorities are asking

governors and heads to do their dirty work for them."

Mr Hart says heads are concerned that budgets are being kept artificially low by some authorities to hold down the community charge and by others who are holding back too large a share of the money due to individual schools for centrally provided services.

John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education, believes the claims of mass redundancies are exaggerated, as transitional arrangements will make them unnecessary. Even the unions say that agreements can be reached on voluntary redundancy or redeployment.

Mr Hart accepts that where redundancies are demanded they will most likely be taken by volunteers. He says: "I am increasingly concerned at the number of volunteers heads find when they look for cuts. Whether teachers go compulsorily or voluntarily makes little difference. They go anyway and we cannot afford to lose them." He hopes Mr MacGregor's address will offer the prospect of more resources.

Independent Education, page 28



David Hart hoping

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Contact Person: Professor David Effkeny, Professor of Surgery, (07) 240 5309; Professor Tess Cramond, Professor of Anaesthetics, (07) 253 5242 and Dr C.B. Campbell, Medical Superintendent, Royal Brisbane Hospital (07) 253 8111.

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Further particulars concerning the appointment and its scope may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, 37 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JF, to whom applications (two copies, or one from overseas candidates) should be sent by 21 June 1990.

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Further particulars from the Permanent Secretary, University of Southampton Students' Union, Highfield, Southampton, SO9 5NH to whom applications must be returned by 4 June 1990.

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Continued on page 28

Starring India-upon-Tyne

The Indian movie industry has invaded Newcastle for its first all-British location film. Alan Franks reports

A princess from Kathmandu on a royal visit to Britain has given her minders the slip and is hanging out with a pickpocket and his live-in lover, who plan to hold her to ransom for a seven-figure sum. Scotland Yard has been informed and the Indian security services are arriving in force. These are heady days in Newcastle.

That, crudely, is the plot of an Indian film now being shot on location in the North East, much to the bemusement of the Geordies in the street. On its success hang the hopes of India's prolific movie industry to extend its market and its production bases to the West. As a storyline, it is hardly more arresting than the circumstances behind the venture. These include the acting ambitions of a former Harlepool GP who has made a fortune out of nursing homes, and is both joint financier and leading male, the casting of the reigning Miss India, before she goes on to challenge for the Miss World title later this year, and the signing of the former world cruiserweight boxing champion and local hero Glenn McCrory to act (in the film) as bodyguard.

That is to say nothing of the 200 extras drawn from Tyne-side's Asian community for the set-piece scenes such as a wedding feast at Northumberland Castle, or of the innumerable passers-by who throng round tiny Miss India, and get right into camera shot without a murmur from the crew, as she twirls winningly by the plate glass of Fenwick's. This is not so much a culture clash as a collision of curiosities.

So what is a girl like Naveeda Mehdi doing in a place like this? The first answer is that she is palpably enjoying herself, speaking like an ambassador in beautifully modulated English about her hopes for world acceptance of her country's cinema. *Princess From Kathmandu* is the first Indian film to be shot entirely in this country; it is being made, with a budget of about £4 million, by a new company called Oscar Films, set up jointly by the established Bombay director Prakash Varma, and the doctor-turned-actor, Arjun Gaur.

There is now a fully-fledged unit of some 40 technicians and cast, living, eating and breathing the film in an old school building up on the Benwell Road, six miles from the city centre. Two-thirds of them are Indian, and the remainder are composed largely of local technicians. The region has been vaunting its suitability as a provider of film locations, and there are already several major drama projects in hand by Tyne-Tees and the BBC. For Mr Varma, the appeal lies in the fact that from his Newcastle base at Gaur House, there is a wide range of backdrops within half an hour's drive — a welcome change from the immense

distances of the sub-continent. For Colin Hale, the unflappable production manager from Gosforth, things are less simple. Since he cannot understand the script, he is not finding it easy to plan the shooting timetable. Mr Varma and Dr Gaur themselves had to endure an administrative nightmare with the British High Commission in Bombay, who ruled that all the Indian visitors would need work permits, then commuted the requirement to visas, but insisted that only married members would be allowed to join the team. Nevertheless, since it has taken some of his compatriots anything from five to 10 years to mount their filming operations abroad, the present rate of progress — a matter of months — can be considered a sprint.

If you were expecting a typecast doctor, bowed by years of family medicine in Harlepool and the frustration of having missed his *métier* as a matinee idol, there is a shock. Dr Gaur looks implausibly young to have built up a £25 million empire of hotels and care institutions. He gives his age as "30-plus", and is devilishly handsome in a safe sort of way.

During his days as a medical student in Khanpur, he really wanted to go on the stage. "I did a great deal of acting, as I have done ever since. But I am only now, my father considered it very important that I should gain my professional qualifications. Now that I have been a doctor, and built up my company, it seemed to me that it was a good time to do what I have always wanted to do."

Which is to be a film star. However the English-language version of *Princess* fares, the Hindi one has a guaranteed audience of several million in India. Each year the industry turns out 800 films, which are monitored and released through the National Film Development Corporation. Some of these are seen by the most avid as many as 25 times, and the leading names become idols who can command £10,000 for a day's filming.

Is Dr Gaur's not a case of self-financed wish-fulfilment? His face fields the (obvious) question without a flinch behind the panstick. "Of course I love the thought that I might become a star. But do you think that a director of Prakash Varma's experience would allow someone to appear for maybe 85 per cent of a film if he did not think that person was good enough? Besides, it would not be accurate to say that I have financed it. What I have done is to make available some of the resources which my organization has here in order to make the project possible."

Prakash Varma is rock-solid on the question of the doctor's ability. He also gives off waves of ebullience about the future



Clear directions: Prakash Varma (left) shows the way to his fledgling stars, Arjun Gaur and Naveeda Mehdi

of Oscar Films: "We want to be international... in our subjects and in our audiences. I came to the conclusion that what they were shown by Indian film-makers was only Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament and so on. I wanted to show what life was

like away from all that, in the real England."

Once Oscar Films becomes established, there are half a dozen projects to be tackled: *America in Ransom*, a sort of *Stateless Crocodile Dundee*, *Alka*, about a space-jet which suddenly appears in a remote

part of India and sorts out all the country's domestic problems from hunger to bride-burning; *Claws of Death*, a high-budget account of the 1984 explosion at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal. "It's definitely different working with them," says Ian

Maghie, of Newcastle's M and J Film Services. "They're multi-skilled. They're doing the lights one minute and the cameras the next. I don't reckon it could happen here. For all I know they could even rush in and do the make-up if they had to."

Or the acting, which has already offered a number of openings. Apart from the boxer, the doctor and Miss World, the cast at present includes Helen Ruddick, who is Miss HMS Lavacible, and Kristina Asa Nystrom (playing the pickpocket's live-in lover), who is billed accurately enough by the publicity material as "a beautiful blonde from Sweden". She looks as bemused as the Geordies in the street, and just as happy. "I left the E15 acting school in Leighton last July," she says, "and since then I have done a couple of things with the London Film School. This is quite a big part. I suppose I am in the film for about 40 per cent of the time. Yes, of course I hope there are more to come."

HOW INDIA'S FILM INDUSTRY HAS GROWN

IN JULY 1896 the Lumière brothers' cinematograph was shown to an élite European gathering at Bombay's Watsons Hotel. By the beginning of this century, films imported from the West were shown on a biocine in "tent cinemas" all over India.

One such film was *The Life of Christ*, which inspired an Indian, D.G. Phalke, to translate Hindu mythology into moving visuals, where people could see their gods and deities in the flesh. As acting was below the dignity of Indian women, Mr Phalke made up men to play the female roles. In 1913 the Indian motion picture industry proper was launched with the Bombay release of Mr Phalke's feature film *Raja Harishchandra*. The film set a trend for "mythologicals". Between 1913 and 1934 1,269 silent features were made, of which 247 were mythologicals, later to be superseded by "stunts", "costume drama" and "socials" —

films of nationalist moral import dedicated to some kind of reform.

The first Indian talkie, *Alam Ara*, was released on March 14, 1931 in Bombay. The film had songs and music, which have become a permanent feature of the Indian film.

The "escapist" genre which became firmly established during the war years has predominated up to the present day. The heroes and heroines have become larger than life, and everything has a high gloss. A parallel cinema, with the help of the National Film Development Corporation, is making serious statements about contemporary life, but this has little impact.

Like everywhere else television has eroded audiences for commercial cinema, and video piracy is rife. But in the country that produces more films than any other, the show on the screen goes on.

FIRDOS ALI

Child's play for parents

Toys and games are far too serious a business to be left to mere children, an American professor says

FROM the age of one, says Professor Jeffrey Goldstein, children want sex-typed toys. "And there's really nothing a parent can — or should — do about it."

Professor Goldstein, an American behavioural psychologist, has just been in London at a seminar organized by the British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association. He is well known for his work on violence and aggression, and for debunking many of the myths about children's play.

He joined a panel of psychologists, social anthropologists and toy manufacturers in asserting that play is far too serious a matter to be left to children. Toys, they said, are the building blocks of imagination, and as essential to a child's social and emotional development as adequate nourishment is for physical growth.

Some people think children are like kittens and would be just as happy with a crumpled-up piece of paper, says Professor Goldstein. "That is not so — at least, not after the age of one. They need well designed toys suited to their age and development."

Dr Judith Ennew, a social anthropologist and fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, sees toys, whether natural, home-made or store-bought, as an essential tool for fostering the imagination.

"Adults have lost contact with that imaginative, creative, inventive part of themselves which is the basis of science and art and jokes and enjoyment. Anything that you play with fosters this, whether it's sticks and stones or a computer toy. And I'd say to any parent, don't buy a toy for a child unless you enjoy playing with it yourself so you can learn things together."

Professor Goldstein agrees that the toys which encourage parental participation are to be recommended. "Parents do not play with their children enough. But play benefits parents because it distracts them from their worries and concerns. Play is relaxing, and it is one of the few things adults can do with abandon. The other is sex."

Kate Stephens, senior policy and development officer of the National Children's Play

and Recreation Unit, reported to the seminar that children, especially those in the affluent South East, were suffering the deprivation of "plug-in" play.

"The chief play environment has become the bedroom, and the chief components the television and the computer. Parents have become frightened to let their children out, or they are both out at work. One child in six comes home from school to an empty house. Teachers are now too obsessed with the National Curriculum to give time to after-school play on school premises."

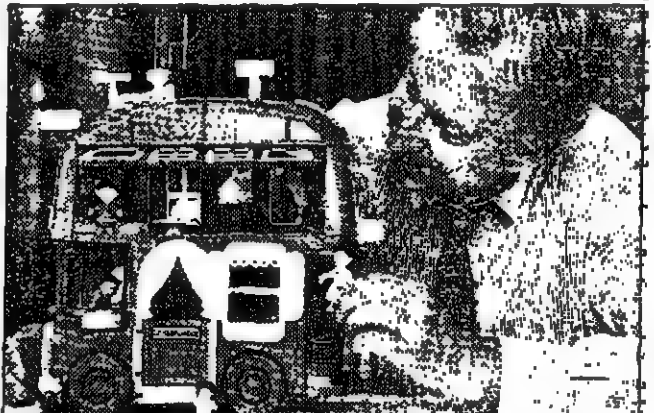
"The long-term effects are incalculable. Children are losing the essential social skills of sharing, giving and taking, winning and losing."

PROFESSOR Goldstein may allay a lot of parents' fears, when he cites research that indicates children are not putty in the hands of advertisers — despite the success of television-linked toys. And, adults are more likely than children to see aggression in a child's play, he maintains. "War toys have a negligible effect on children's aggression. They are much more influenced by their family and peers — as they are when it comes to buying toys."

Banning a particular type of toy because of parental disapproval is a sure way to make it seem a forbidden pleasure, he says. "Any toy or game can be played with in ways to benefit a child, and prohibitions are not effective. Parents should become directly involved with the toys they don't like — either because they're war toys, or because they involve sexual stereotyping, or whatever — and try to influence their children's perceptions."

Given that the seminar was organized by toy manufacturers, it could have been regarded as a sour note when one speaker claimed that there were only five basic toys in the world, common to almost every culture: ball, string, dice, pencil and paper. But the proponents of child's play as a healthy pursuit for adults were vindicated when it was disclosed that the average age for buyers of model train sets in the United States is 44.

Victoria McKee



All aboard for play: Big Red Fun Bus, a top-selling toy

Less sex please, we're French

A small band of women has notched up a legal victory in France over traditional views on male sexual rights

THE bottom-pinching, skirt-chasing, highly aroused French male is a favourite of the boulevard comedies, those entertainments on manners and morals popular from Georges Feydeau (1862-1921) to the present day.

They could be subtitled "Sex please, we're French". But what is amusing to the stage-goers is a daily pest for many French secretaries and other female office staff, as well as housemaids and au

pair girls, confronted with French men exercising their "rights". And after a long fight by a small group of French women, in particular one secretary working in the French finance ministry, something is now being done.

The theatre in all this is important, for it has tended to transform the serious problem of sexual harassment in the French workplace into a laughing matter. The so-called *droit de seigneur* (the noble-

man's right to sleep with the wife of his serf) gave way to the expression *droit de cuissage*, *cuissage* meaning thigh. But whereas it was one thing for a middle-class woman to fend off trouble with some quick-witted repartee — the verbal power of a Parisienne can be awesome — it was another for women in offices, particularly in the provinces, where bosses could "try it on" without much fear.

Last week the French State Secretariat, or junior ministry, for Women's Rights announced that changes in the law would be put to the National Assembly in the autumn specifically outlawing sexual harassment in the workplace, with penalties ranging from two years in jail and a £220 fine, to five years and £55,000 in fines.

It was a co-incidence, but nevertheless a matter for reflection, that this change in the French way of looking at an age-old problem has come as yet another English woman — the third in less than a year — was murdered in the French provinces.

The proposed legislation has all-party support, and could include changes in the penal code to include punishment for conjugal violence. The women's rights ministry and the labour ministry are also studying ways of changing the *code du travail*, to enable inspectors to intervene in cases of harassment, and make employers responsible for women workers' security. The French claim that their new laws will be European first, although sexual harassment cases have been brought in Britain and Germany.

Marie-Victoire Louis, aged 40, a divorced woman with one child, has led the fight. Although not a victim herself, she knows the problem inside out from her work with the Centre Nationale de Recherches Scientifiques, the country's leading research body, which employs her as a "feminist". It was the determination of the finance ministry secretary, Joëlle Causin, five years ago that encouraged Mme Louis and others to form their "association against violence to women at work".

Their small modern office above a police station in east Paris filled up with anguished letters from women all over France. A typical example came from a hairdresser's assistant in Mulhouse, whose existence became a nightmare with the arrival of a hot-blooded new manager, who fired her for refusing his advances. In a rare decision she eventually won a civil case for illegal dismissal, but in future the words "sexual harassment" will be enshrined in the Napoleonic Code, and will make it easier for women like her to gain redress.

For a long time there were just three Frenchwomen fighting the issue — Mme Louis, Mme Causin and Mme Yvette Fulle, a European Parliamentarian. But now they have finally won what Mme Louis calls "the intellectual debate, so important in France, establishing that harassment was misuse of an employer's power".

Alan Tillier

AVFT Association, 71 Rue St Jacques, 75005 Paris (01) 33 1 40 31 18

Pick of the Week



CHRISTIE'S

THIS FINE TEA KETTLE, stand and lamp was made in 1733 by the goldsmith Thomas Farrer. The restrained fluting designed to reflect light in the evening in a Georgian drawing room is subtly offset by crisp floral strapwork which heralded the arrival of the Rococo style in England. It is amongst the highlights of the sale of Important Silver and Objects of Vertu at Christie's, King Street, on Wednesday, 23 May at 10.30 a.m.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week, please call Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060.

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85 Old Brompton Road,
London SW7
164-16A Bith Street, Glasgow

Fin. Cov. H to tea kettle, stand and lamp.
by Thomas Farrer, F.S.S.
Estimate £8,000-12,000



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The BDA is the UK's biggest investor in diabetes research to find a cure and relies entirely on voluntary contributions.

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THE SHADOW OF DIABETES

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

ARTS



Larks and nightingales

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre begins its 1990 season this week.
Jeremy Kingston on the adventures and perils of outdoor theatre

Ancient Greeks had no choice but to watch open-air theatre. In the Middle Ages mystery plays trundled through the streets on carts at Whitsun and Corpus Christi, wet or fine. In Shakespeare's open theatres the plebs, clutching their pouches of hazelnuts, jostled in the pit at the mercy of summer showers.

Professional theatre went indoors soon after this and stayed there till the present century, leaving the open air to pageants and amateur theatricals. I have a photo of my bearded mother playing Creon in the grounds of Royal Holloway College: she is trying to frown without dislodging her cotton wool eyebrows and I do not think she will succeed. But at fresco theatre sloughed off this amateur skin some years ago, and this week the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park (picture above) unlocks its gates for another season. Around the country other companies will be trying to persuade audiences to sit for an hour or two in the gathering dark, in the gathering dew, in the gathering chill. What is the attraction?

At its rare peak a production in a natural landscape is so breathtaking that the memory lasts a lifetime. The example often quoted is Neville Coghill's *The Tempest*, 40 years ago at Worcester College, Oxford, where Ariel appeared on the far side of the lake and, in answer to Prospero's call, ran to him across the water. Coghill had placed a line of

duckboards just below the surface along which the actor, with some courage, sped. By the time he reached dry land — "Grave sir, I come!" — most of the audience must have twigged how the trick had been worked but, in those precious seconds before reason took over, the impossible sight joined them into fairy-land.

To expect mind-opening sights of this order at every open-air production would be unrealistic. There has to be another attraction and I think it is the sense of adventure. At a time when hum-drum people are leaving parks or castles (Ludlow, Arundel) to go home, we are doing the opposite, walking into the rose-garden and across the grass. There in front of us, overhanging by trees, what is this? A wicket gate? A theatre?

I am nervous of making the experience sound like something from *The Wind in the Willows* with illustrations by Arthur Rackham, but the feeling that we have broken the mould of habit puts the nerves wonderfully on edge. It is no big deal to walk off the street into a theatre and sit in the dark. It is unusual and just a little daring to sit under the sky and watch trees swaying (not too much, please) in the evening air.

Of course there are sometimes aeroplanes, but at Williamson Park, Lancaster, where the open

air season starts next month, there are nightingales. Not electronic effects, as audiences sometimes assume, but genuine birds. Edith Evans, who liked every performance to be the same as the one before, would have wanted them served up next morning on toast.

The Duke's Theatre at Lancaster started open-air performances three years ago — with the *Dream*, naturally — and, whereas at Regent's Park the audience is seated, in Williamson Park the plays are given promenade productions. Audiences are led on a circuitous route through the 40 acres of wild and formal greenery that stretch up to the domed Ashton Memorial commanding the height like a northern *Sacré Coeur*.

The 1987 *Dream* began beside the granite columns of the Memorial, standing in for Thebes's court. Audiences then followed a path past the lovers quarrelling in a nearby gorge to watch Titania fall asleep by the lake. The mile-long trail wound on through Fairyland and ended back at the Memorial where, on balmy evenings, they watched the sun go down on Morecambe Bay.

Contrary to popular assumption, few performances have to be cancelled (three last year) and,

according to the director, Ian Forrest, the sun causes more problems. "We had pigs in last year's *As You Like It* which got very sunburnt." This year's season opens on June 7 with *The Tempest*, joined at the end of the month by *Tales of King Arthur*, for which Forrest promises an arm emerging from the lake to grab Excalibur.

The Open Air Theatre at Regent's Park boasts a longer history. Shaw's *The Burgurers of Calais* was given its premiere here in 1934, with Hubert Gregg playing the Black Prince, and the theatre had already been going for two years. Sydney Carroll, an Australian actor and sometime drama critic, founded it with the redoubtable Robert Atkins, and in those days the place seated 5,000, four times the capacity of the present, raked auditorium built by Atkins's successor, David Conville. Audiences sat in a vast semi-circle on deckchairs and slatted park seats facing a lawn-stage twice the width of Drury Lane's. Here Carroll stood with his actors at the end of the first performance, glanced down at the new turf and announced to the audience, "Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to know that every sod on this stage comes from Richmond."

Fifty-eight years on, Ian Talbot, the present director, opens his fourth season on Friday with *Much Ado About Nothing*. *Julius Caesar* follows and then *The Fantasticks*, the musical that has run in New York since 1960, America's equivalent of our *Mousetrap*.

The inclusion of one musical each season is now a regular feature at Regent's Park and recalls a curious incident, or sequence of incidents, back in the 1930s. Phyllis Neilson-Terry used to sing Oberon's "I know a bank" in her powerful contralto and each evening, as her voice crossed the Park to the Zoo a few hundred yards away, the entire dog family, from wolves to hyenas, woke up and howled.

The Zoo's proximity brings another *fissure* to an evening's visit. Productions in the Open Air present special problems to those who mount them — the lighting balance, the acoustics (better after a daytime shower lays the dust) and the long entrances of 20 to 30 yards that can tax an actor who has to enter running and then announce a crucial turn of plot. But for actors and audiences alike performances in this sky-valued setting catch, however faintly, an echo from the days before plays were written down, when rituals and verse spoke of the mystery of man not quite at ease in his world. In those days trees and lakes, beasts and rose-bushes were inhabited by spirits; and on a good night, fortified with a glass of mulled wine, it is not hard to feel their presence still.

CRITICS' CHOICE: THEATRE

NEW IN LONDON

BURN THIS: John Malkovich and Lou Liberatore from the Chicago production join Juliet Stephenson in Lanford Wilson's comedy of Manhattan passion. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (071-722 9224). Undergound: Swiss Cottage. Previews from Wed, 8pm. Opens May 28, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

THE CRUCIBLE: Michael Bryant in new Howard Davies production to celebrate Arthur Miller's 75th birthday. National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Undergound: Waterloo. Previews from Fri, 7.15pm. Opens May 31, 7pm. Then in repertoire.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: Ian Talbot's company take to the grass again for the start of another season. Pray for good weather. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Previews from Fri, 7.45pm. Opens May 29, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat June 6, 2.30pm. From June 11, in repertoire with *Julius Caesar*.

POLICE: London premiere for Slavomir Mrozak's 1958 but now timely play about the last throes of a police state. Soho Poly, 16 Fiding House Street, W1 (071-636 9050). Undergound: Oxford Circus. Previews Wed, Thurs, 8pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Ends June 16.

PUNISHMENT WITHOUT REVENGE: Set in the inescapable, criminal court of Ferrara, *Loce de Vega's* last play asks the title question. Gate, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembroke Road, W11 (071-229 0708). Undergound: Notting Hill Gate. Previews from tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens May 24, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Ends June 16.

OUTSIDE LONDON

CHICHESTER: *The Power and the Glory.* Tim Luscombe directs Edward Petherbridge as Graham Greene's whisky-pest: with Penny Downie and Alan Howard. Festival Theatre, Osklands Park (0243 781312). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then in repertoire with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

CHICHESTER: *Thérèse Raquin.* Adaptation by Nicholas Wright of Zola's murky thriller. Minerva Studio Theatre, Osklands Park (0243 781312). Preview Wed, 7.45pm. Opens Thurs, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.45pm.

EDINBURGH: *A Family Affair.* Ostrovsky's over-the-top farce about upwardly mobile merchants in Tsarist Moscow. Royal Lyceum, Grindlay Street (031-229 9697). Free preview Thurs, 8pm. Opens Fri, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3.15pm.

SALISBURY: *Sweeney Todd.* Ambitious production of Sondheim's musical tribute to the pork pie and barbering co-operative. Playhouse, Malpas Lane (0722 20333). Opens Fri, 8pm. Then Tues, Wed and Fri, 7.15pm. Thurs and Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm and Sat, 4.45pm. Ends June 16.

SHEFFIELD: *Born Yesterday.* Sharon Mughan and Paul Meowall in timeless Washington DC comedy of love, corruption and culture. Crucible, Norfolk Street (0742 769922). Previews Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat June 6, 2.30pm, and June 16, 4pm. Ends June 16.

LEEDS: *The Maple Tree Game.* The second theatre within the new Playhouse opens with a political thriller

by Pavel Kohout. Dubcek supporter exiled after the Prague Spring: an old professor embroils the secret police in a game of cat and mice. Courtyard Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill (0532 442111). Preview tonight, 7.45pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, June 9, and June 23, 4pm. Ends June 23.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Jeremy Kingston's selection of current London shows can be found overleaf

LONDON CABARET

IMPROV FEST: Not cheap but in a good cause — with proceeds to the London Lighthouse Centre. A whole week of improvised comedy, with different shows every night demonstrating the variety of techniques around today; acts include The 4am Improv Play, the Comedy Store Players and Spontaneous Combustion. Canal Theatre, The Endless House, Delamere Terrace, W2 (071-268 9054). Undergound: Warwick Avenue. Tonight-Sun: doors 7pm, shows 7.45pm, £10.

COMEDY CAFE: A new venue opens, and only the second in town — the Store was the first — to promise five nights a week of comedy. It kicks off in style with Johnny Inman, Owen O'Neill, Patrick Marber and Malcolm Hardee as comedians. 66 Rivington Street, EC2 (071-978 9424). Undergound: Old Street. Thurs: 8pm, £5 (includes £1 voucher towards food).

COMEDY STORE: It has become conventional that the American acts due to appear on this week's BBC 1 *Paramount City* go to the Store on Fridays to "gear up" to a UK audience — if you prefer to see your new acts live, this week you'll get Tommy Davidson and Danitra Vance — home-grown offerings include Jack Dee, Ian Macpherson and Alan Davies. 28a Leicester Square, WC2 (0426 914433). Undergound: Leicester Square. Fri (two shows): doors 7pm, show 8pm; doors 11pm, show midnight, £7.

HOLD BACK THE NIGHT: With its vegetarian and vegan cuisine, juice bar, trampolines, inflatable and crèche, this venue sounds rather like the old Earth Exchange — with knobs on. Splendid bills, nevertheless: this week Jeremy Eccles shares the honours with Johnny Inman and the musical trio J&B with Josie Lawrence. The Bear Tavern, Dalrymple Way, W10 (081-969 0701). Undergound: Ladbroke Grove. Sat: doors 8pm, show 10.30pm, £4.50 (£3.50).

OUTSIDE LONDON

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA: Double-act Chris and George, ventriloquist Terri Rogers, comedian Simon Bligh, host Lee Evans — plus an open spot. Joke Comedy Club, Cliffs Pavilion Maritime Bar, Station Road (0702 600500). Sat: doors 8pm, show 9.30pm, £5.

BIRMINGHAM: An enterprising idea: import the talent from London and offer them two gigs in different venues — in this case that means Michael Redmond, Ian Saville and Dave Thompson, with Frank Skinner. The Bear Tavern, High Street, Bearwood (0394 933366). Wed: 8.30pm, £2. Also: The Hare and Hounds, High Street, Kings Heath (same phone, time and price), on Thurs.

CAROL SARTER

Boulders for the Biennale

Joseph Williams meets Anish Kapoor, the British sculptor at this year's Venice Biennale

THOUGH it may sound like the brainchild of a *Radio Times* caption-writer, trying to cross-link a lot of disparate programmes, "One World" is a pan-European initiative to bring ecological awareness into half a billion homes. Its opening film, *The March* (BBC 1) was a considerable achievement by the writer William Nicholson and the producer Peter Goodchild.

Made at a cost of £2 million over four months, with a cast of thousands on primarily Moroccan locations, *The March* was perhaps television's first purpose-built epic. Although made specifically for the small screen, it had obviously been influenced by David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*, and Attenborough's *Gandhi*.

Nicholson's central story was of a charismatic Sudanese leader (Malik Bowens), who marches his people out of the desert into Europe, so that the rich are forced to watch them die. Against him, Nicholson sets Juliet Stevenson as a tough Irish Commissioner for Third World Development, who starts from a position of instinctive hostility ("Being kind to the poor makes my skin itch") but gradually comes to appreciate the 'iniquities of the system'.

Chichés were not always avoided: Nicholson's script even had the wise old man asking to be left to die in the desert so the march could continue, as well as such familiar figures as the opportunist African politician and the Commissioner's cynical sidekick.

A film about a march, it was indeed often pedestrian, but precisely because it used all the visual and verbal shorthand of half a dozen familiar old movies, it made its political points with great potency. What we watched, cross-cut with all the marching, was Juliet Stevenson's gradual awakening to the idea that this was not a disorganised rabble but a pilgrimage of death. For 90 minutes that pilgrimage became both a political thriller and a moral lesson: you cannot ask much more of television than that.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

PURCHASING slabs of rock from bewildered Welsh quarrymen is all in a day's work for the sculptor Anish Kapoor. His latest works are about to be unveiled in the 1990 Venice Biennale, the mammoth international festival of contemporary arts, opening next Sunday. Selected a few months ago by the British Council's Visual Arts Advisory Committee, Kapoor represents Britain in a jamboree expected to attract more than 1,200 critics.

Meeting him in his capacious London studio is a little like stumbling on to a *Dr Who* film set. Gigantic boulders, encrusted in envelopes of luminous blue, decorate the floor. Against the walls are rows of strange megalithic blocks. Many works are unfinished; others, half-seen under their plastic wrappers, are outward bound for Venice.

Born and brought up in Bombay, Kapoor came to London aged 17. After studying at the Hornsey and Chelsea Schools of Art, his career was launched in the early Eighties, and has now become as colourful as his dazzling pigments. He believes that his works, though steeped in Indian culture, have universal appeal: "What comes out of me is Indian, but I borrow from several cultures. So I hope the work reaches a very wide audience."

His speciality is powdered pigment, applied in rich coats and coruscating colours to his massive stones. Inspired ten years ago by mounds of scarlet powder outside Indian temples, he began to experiment with scalding reds and mustard yellows: "My early work was very bright, but it's becoming



Pigments and blocks: Anish Kapoor in his London studio

a lot darker now — the Prussian blue for instance."

His main sculpture, "Void field", exhibited last year in London's Lisson Gallery, is to be revealed on an even larger scale in Venice. Consisting of 20 sandstone slabs, standing like ruined dolmens, each block is incised with a hole, then filled in with blue of such intensity as to be virtually black. It is a bizarre illusion, because there is no obvious depth until you push your hand through the cavity to find that the slab has been completely hollowed out, although all the

blocks look heavy enough to help sink Venice even further.

Kapoor's explanations of his work are not exactly perspicuous: "In essence, it is a transformation of the material into the immaterial, body into spirit, as in the Eucharist." He tends to garnish his language with psycho-analytical and mystical allusions, without relating them precisely to his art.

"Angel", another work transferring to Venice, consists of an elongated slate saturated in soft blue pigment. Its ethereal quality seems to lighten the stone's weight. But although it is vaguely

in the shape of a wing, any spiritual explanation of this sculpture would be tenuous indeed.

The interest lies rather in the very mystery, in the unerring darkness of the pigment in "Void Field", in the strange shapes and mysterious holes that defy any attempt at rational explanation. Impenetrability is disturbing. There is something unspeakably awesome about darkness and emptiness, and Kapoor hints at this fear of the unknown in his stories. He believes that ultimately art does not require any significance: "The purpose can be just spiritual. I have nothing to express or say."

The significance of the Biennale is clear enough. The festival is considered by many to be the cynosure of the arts world. Past winners include Moore, Lucian Freud, Bacon, Hodgkin, Auerbach and, most recently, Tony Cragg.

The director of the sub-committee which chose Kapoor, Henry Meyric Hughes, believes that the work is representative of the new generation of British artists: "Kapoor's use of pigment on stone marks a major turning-point in his work. This sort of sculpture has never been seen in Europe. And Venice is an interchange of East and West, reflecting the way Kapoor borrows from both cultures." The appeal to a foreign audience is one reason why Kapoor was chosen.

Meyric Hughes also believes that the sculptures will look good in the space of the pavilion: "These works depend very much on their relationship with the space around them; even the play of light is important."

Battling against the British representation in Venice will be 30 other countries with national pavilions. With Kapoor's works currently fetching around £90,000 each, his reputation has become more solid than his rocks.

Live performance reviews can be found overleaf

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BUSINESS

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar

1.6900 (+0.0095)

W German mark

2.7870 (+0.0461)

Exchange index

88.2 (+1.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1793.3 (+84.5)

FT-SE 100

2269.1 (+93.2)

USM (Datastream)

130.55 (+0.68)

Boesky to speak out against friend

MR IVAN Boesky, the convicted US securities fraudster, will give evidence this week against a former friend who is before the New York Federal Court on securities manipulation charges (John Durie writes from New York).

The case involves Mr John Mulhern, who was charged last year with a number of offences, including parking shares on Mr Boesky's behalf. The term share parking describes the situation where someone buys shares on behalf of the real buyer in an attempt to hide the true ownership. Usually a deal is reached for the nominal buyer to sell the shares at a pre-arranged price and time.

The Mulhern trial is the first in which Mr Boesky has given public evidence against another individual. In the initial statements to the court last Thursday the US prosecutor Mr Scott Gilbert said Mr Boesky gave Mr Mulhern information of "enormous value" and in return Mr Mulhern helped Mr Boesky commit crimes.

The case centres on alleged dealings in shares in Gulf and Western (now Paramount Communications). Other key witnesses for the government case will be the chairman of Paramount, Mr Martin Davis, and Mr Boesky's former top trader, Mr Michael Davidoff.

Citibank in \$1.3bn credit card issue

Citibank will attempt its first international issue of asset-backed securities for its \$23 billion credit card operations this week. The issue will be \$1.3 billion with a coupon rate expected of 9.5 per cent.

Citibank has actively increased its portfolio, including the purchase in February this year of \$632 million in credit card receivables from the Bank of New England.

With 36 million cards issued under its own name, it made an estimated \$550 million from its credit card operations last year.

Lloyd's mission to Soviet Union

Lloyd's of London, the insurance market, is exploring opportunities to expand its Soviet business.

Mr Murray Lawrence, the Lloyd's chairman, today begins a one-week "fact-finding mission" throughout the Soviet Union. He will discuss "the role which Lloyd's might play in helping to meet the USSR's future insurance needs" with Ingosstrakh, the USSR's international insurance company, and Gosstrakh, its domestic insurance company.

Amax drops bid

Amax Inc has withdrawn from its race with Hanson Industries for control of the American company Peabody Coal.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.35	2.15
Austria Sch	13.75	13.50
Belgium Fr	66.75	66.50
Canada \$	2.16	2.00
Denmark Kr	11.10	10.40
France Fr	6.51	6.51
Germany DM	3.82	3.77
Greece Dr	2.57	2.57
Hong Kong \$	12.51	12.51
India Ru	1.85	1.85
Italy Lit	2.15	2.02
Japan Yen	275	257
Netherlands Gld	3.25	3.08
Norway Kr	11.07	10.57
Portugal Esc	255	243
South Africa Rd	5.45	4.85
Spain Ptas	161.50	158.50
Sweden Kr	10.54	10.04
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.33
Switzerland Sfr	4.50	4.50
Turkey Lira	1.73	1.73
USA \$	24.50	24.50
Yugoslavia Dnr		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to remittance charges.

Canary Wharf in running for new Eurobank

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

WORK is to start at once setting up the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London despite the controversy surrounding the choice of location.

The bank will be a large institution with capital of Ecu10 billion (about £7.5 billion) and an initial staff of 600. Canary Wharf in London's Docklands is one option for the site.

The bank will be the first large international financial institution to be located in London. Mr John Major, the Chancellor, said: "This means that most of the capital for Eastern Europe will come from London."

The choice of London as the location for the EBRD was confirmed in Paris on Saturday.

A number of smaller European Community countries, led by the Netherlands, have condemned the decision, coupled with the appointment of M Jacques Attali to be its first president, as a *fait accompli* agreed by the larger countries with the smaller EC members largely excluded.

The row threatens to cast a shadow over the birth of the new institution. Mr Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, pointed out that Britain had earlier supported the candidature of Mr Onno Ruding, the former Dutch

finance minister and recently chairman of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund.

Britain switched its vote as part of a deal with France under which the EBRD would come to London while Britain would lead France some of its quota in the IMF to enable France to remain fourth equal with Britain in the councils of the fund.

Despite the row, the deal is seen by officials as a coup for the Chancellor. Mr Major said yesterday that the Dutch were naturally disappointed that the bank was not to be located in Amsterdam and would not have a Dutch president.

However, London had received a majority of the votes among the countries of Western Europe, Eastern Europe and outside Europe. "I should be very surprised if these complaints continued," he said.

London won 71 per cent of the votes at a meeting of officials held in Paris over the weekend.

The meeting was attended by 40 member countries which include all European Community members, all East European countries except Albania, the Soviet Union, and other large countries outside Europe. The European Commission and the European Investment Bank are also members.

A formal signing ceremony

will be held at the Elysée, Paris, in eight days and the bank will come into existence when two-thirds of its members have ratified the text of the agreement. In Britain's case, this will be by the end of the year following secondary legislation.

The US will have the largest vote in the new institution with 10 per cent, followed by Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan each with 8.5 per cent.

The fashion for equal status follows the agreement at the IMF in Washington this month for Japan and Germany to be second equal in the fund and Britain and France fourth equal. There will be 23 seats on the EBRD's board, one occupied by Britain.

The bank will be able to lend at market rates to all central and Eastern European countries which are "committed to, and applying, the principles of multi-party democracy, pluralism and market economics." This will exclude the Soviet Union for the time being. However, the USSR will be able to borrow up to its own paid-up capital in the bank so long as the money is for private projects.

M Attali, President Mitterand's economic adviser, who is credited with the idea for the bank, will begin work on setting it up straight away assisted by a small group.

Ecu seeks friends in UK

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

A CAMPAIGN, backed by Europe's leading companies, to turn the Ecu into the single currency of the European Community, will be carried to Westminster today.

Advocates of the single currency, as opposed to a common currency operating alongside existing national units, want urgent steps by European Community governments to remove the huge cost burden of the present multi-currency system.

This demand, which was publicly endorsed by European business chiefs in Brussels last week, will be discussed at a seminar in London today on economic and monetary union.

Mr Joly Dixon, a member of the cabinet of M Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, with responsibility for EMU, and Sir Michael Butler, a director of Hambros bank and a former British ambassador to the

Commission, will put their cases for the Ecu becoming the sole EC currency.

A senior partner of Ernst & Young, the business consultant hosting the seminar, will advise British firms what they should do in the light of its report, *A Strategy for the Ecu*, commissioned by the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe (AMUE).

Though the Government has actively fostered use of the present Ecu, it has argued for a system of competitive currencies in the EC, and is opposed to a single unit. The competitive currency plan has, however, been largely dismissed in other capitals.

The report, which surveyed 200 leading European companies, found that the bulk would expect savings of 0.5 per cent and 1.0 per cent of turnover from the introduction of a single currency. They expected a positive impact from a single currency and

favoured wider use of the Ecu. On the basis of the report, the AMUE is seeking a transitional strategy for the present Ecu, based on a basket of currencies, to become the single European currency soon.

It sees the Ecu, issued by a future European central bank, as a politically neutral alternative to allowing the market to become the EC currency.

It wants a "credible" declaration soon from the EC governments that the Ecu will become the single currency and the creation of an independent European central bank to foster the necessary confidence and security.

It adds that the market transparency and certainty provided by a single currency would encourage investment and growth in Europe and enhance efficiency in capital markets.

Economic view, page 25

More details of alleged ISC fraud likely to be released

From Stephen Leather, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

FURTHER details of the alleged \$1 billion defence contract fraud at Ferranti International's US subsidiary, International Signal and Control, are expected to be released to a US court today.

Documents are due to be filed in the US district court in Philadelphia by a former ISC lawyer who is claiming \$1.76 million severance pay.

The payment to Mr William Clark was agreed by Mr James Guerin, former deputy chairman of Ferranti, the British defence group, and the founder of ISC, but was frozen by the US courts. The government claims the cash was obtained by fraud and racketeering and that neither man is entitled to it.

The case has produced a number of allegations: ● A special agent from the Internal Revenue Service claimed that Mr Guerin directed a \$1 billion fraud using five fictitious contracts to inflate ISC's business.

● An FBI agent alleged that Mr Guerin illegally exported weapons to South Africa.

● Mr Guerin was accused of removing incriminating documents from ISC offices.

Speaking from his Florida home last night, he said: "My lawyers have told me not to comment and I am following their advice." He is also refusing to confirm or deny that he is negotiating a plea agreement over the alleged ISC fraud.

Last week, his company, Parent Industries Inc, pleaded guilty to racketeering and agreed to pay the US government up to \$4.4 million. As part of the deal it has given up its claim to \$2 million earmarked to pay off Mr Clark.

An FBI agent was asked in court if Mr Guerin is also negotiating a plea but the district attorney, Mr Robert Goldman, objected to any discussion of the subject.

Ferranti last year said it had a \$215 million hole in its assets caused by alleged ISC fraud.

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Chemist will go public this year

TED BATH



Prescription for support: Shareholders at the UniChem meeting show their approval for the listing plan

UniChem board wins 96% of votes

By Philip Pangalos

UNICHEM, the co-operative wholesale chemist, has gained overwhelming support for its plan to convert to a public limited company and seek a listing.

The company received more than 96 per cent approval for the board's recommendations, with 2,767 of the 2,879 members who voted in person or by proxy backing the board, while 112 voted against. More than 1,200 members attended the meeting at Thorpe Park near Staines, Middlesex, yesterday.

One man from Forest Hill, South-east London, objected: "Members will be lining their pockets, but losing their society," he said.

Mr Peter Dodd, the chief executive, said UniChem, in existence since 1938, will be able to make acquisitions, diversify and expand. He said the company has about 35 per cent of the British market and "this would rocket."

A meeting will take place on June 8 to confirm the vote, and UniChem will become a plc from July 2 and proceed with plans to float by means of an introduction and rights issue later this year.

Mr David Mair, the chairman, said: "Our shareholder members know that for independent pharmacy to survive and continue to offer a special personal service to customers, the sector must change and adapt." He added this would not mean a change to UniChem's core business.

He said he expected members to keep control after flotation. "But being a quoted company will allow us to look at the business opportunities which may not have been within our compass before."

The company has already shown signs of entrepreneurial flair. The annual meeting cost about £100,000 to stage, but UniChem organized a trade show where more than 100 pharmaceutical suppliers promoted their products - and paid £3,000 each for the privilege - netting UniChem £300,000 and a tidy £200,000 profit in the process.

The 2 million existing shares in UniChem will be converted to 20 million 10p shares, and members will also be asked to subscribe for another 19.9 million at 10p a share at five for every 12 held. A loyalty bonus will benefit holders who stay for two years.

Last May's valuation of UniChem by Phillips & Drew, the broker, put a £110 million price tag on the company.

American flies in to scoop up more UK property

By Matthew Road

AN AMERICAN responsible for £30 million worth of central London residential property has flown into Heathrow keen to buy more, despite the stagnation in London.

Mr Charles Dyer is the pension fund sponsor for Eastern Air Lines' pilot pension scheme. Following a highly idiosyncratic investment policy, the fund - whose investment committee includes ex-President Gerald Ford - has assembled a portfolio of 61 desirable residences in the best addresses, such as Chelsea, Belgrave, Knightsbridge and Kensington.

But Mr Dyer said: "I'd like to see us get to 100 inside two to three years."

In addition, the \$1 billion fund is to spend £25 million on a two-year project to develop 85 apartments in Pimlico - a brave move when residential development is claiming new victims by the day.

Mr Dyer, a pilot before setting up his own fund management group in 1985, believes the scarcity of supply will, in the long term, keep central London property

prices moving upwards. "My only disappointment is that we haven't got more," he said.

The investment manager selected by Mr Dyer to supervise the London portfolio is Haldon Trust, the private group. Mr Nick Lamb, a director, believes the stagnation in London offers long-term investors the ideal opportunity to buy.

He said: "The year-on-year average growth in central London property is about 16 per cent. But it has been very much below that since 1987. So if it's not at the bottom, it's pretty near."

Mr Dyer has flown to England to meet other senior American pension fund sponsors to review their property investment strategies outside the US, particularly in Europe. He believes that when American fund managers do invest in Europe it will be in prime residential property and not in East European farmland.

He said: "Some other pension funds would like to get their feet wet in London and we would like to do some joint ventures with them."

Pan Am's shuttle for sale

From John Durie New York

THE profitable north-eastern US air shuttle service is up for sale, with both major carriers looking for buyers.

The financially troubled Pan Am has said it is seeking a buyer for its shuttle between New York, Boston and Washington.

Earlier this month Mr Donald Trump, the New York property developer, said he would sell his shuttle.

Mr Trump has had his net worth slashed from \$1.4 billion to \$500 million, due to borrowing costs and poor returns from his casinos. He bought the shuttle from Eastern Air Lines for \$365 million last year.

Pan Am, which has not made a profit since 1980, lost \$336 million last year, after a \$437.1 million loss for its international airline Pan American World Airways. Its north-eastern shuttle has been one of the most profitable units for the company, which said it may also sell some of its routes within Germany.

Each shuttle would be expected to fetch about \$400 million, although Mr Trump has stated he wants \$600 million for his.

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Saatchi defectors face writ threat

By Melinda Wittstock

SAATCHI & Saatchi - the stumbling advertising goliath, which displayed some nimbleness last week by dismissing the surprise walkout of eight employees from its Charlotte St agency as immaterial to its business - has confirmed that its subsidiary is planning to sue the defectors, who have formed a rival agency.

A main-board director ruled out the prospect of legal action last week, but senior directors of the afflicted subsidiary agency decided on Friday to seek legal advice on the matter. The subsidiary does not need the approval of its parent.

Mr Bill Muirhead and Mr Paul

tor of Saatchi's London agency, were not available for comment yesterday, but a Saatchi spokesman confirmed they were in talks with Macfarlanes, the solicitor.

It is understood that the writs, if Macfarlanes gives the go-ahead, will be for breach of contract, the use of company time and confidential information and the return of company films and documents.

The eight, who have strongly denied the allegations, are understood to be close to clinching the £1 million Lemsip contract from Reckitt & Colman, a Saatchi client.

The London agency said last week it had received assurances from all clients serviced by the defectors that they would not leave Saatchi for the new agency, Crown Koneley Trefler but a statement

conflict with its biggest client, Procter & Gamble, is likely to force Saatchi to give up some Reckitt business.

The spokesman said: "Charlotte St has between 250 and 300 clients and a turnover of more than £300 million a year. But if a client worth £50 million conflicts with a client worth £10 million, then the smaller one goes to the wall."

Mr Paul Cowan, the group account director leading the defectors, said the new agency would be "a substantial competitor on the international scene" within a year. But he has denied speculation that his venture, which he said was conceived long before he was passed over for promotion to the agency's executive committee last February, had received backing from

TEMPUS

Blue skies offer insurers little shelter from bad weather risk

WHEN the wind blows, insurers catch a cold. But, weather losses aside, the picture is still difficult. There is no sign yet of premium increases catching up with claims inflation in the US.

In Britain, the growing competition in distribution is also restraining premium growth in the retail market. In commercial insurance, fire rates have fallen by an estimated 15 per cent in a year.

Despite the poor first-quarter experience, insurance shares have modestly outperformed the market since the storms died away, supported by their high yields and the persistent bid hopes surrounding Commercial Union.

But there is little for shareholders to look forward to. If the blue skies over Britain are here for the rest of the summer, the insurers can look forward to sackloads of subsidence claims. Royal admitted to paying out £60 million of these in 1989, and is likely to be hit by at least as much this time.

Otherwise, US underwriters are praying that none of the hurricanes that roll around the Gulf of Mexico each year will come near land, or at least any land populated by their policyholders.

Finally, even dividend growth could be more subdued in 1990. Royal Insurance may argue that a solvency margin of 44 per cent, down from 57 per cent at year end, is all it needs, but figures like these will certainly restrain the generosity of the insurers' directors.

Royal's full-year payout, for example, may only increase by 6 per cent to 27p this time, putting them on a yield of 7.7 per cent.

In all, potential investors should wait for some positive



Paddling his own canoe: Roger Shute, of BM Group, is looking for growth overseas

news, or for renewed weakness in the share price.

BM Group

IN these times, an invitation to invest in the construction industry is reckoned to have all the appeal of a prime cut of rare Scotch beef.

Yet scattered around the sector there are unconsidered trifles unfairly dragged down by the surrounding malaise, and one such could be BM Group.

BM started life as the engineer Bramham Miller and had a spell under the umbrella of Mr Brian Beazer's eponymous construction combine. Mr Roger Shute, BM's energetic chairman, has been paddling his own canoe since Beazer finally bailed out last year.

Growth overseas is likely to fuel the next phase of expansion. It has offshoots in Australia and the US, including ownership of the high profile Mustang brand name which it is using to sell Benford mixers, and increasing business in France and Spain.

Gearing is unlikely to exceed 10 per cent by the June financial year-end, for which

following its takeover of Koppers in the US.

The group's phenomenal growth in the last half of the 1980s — it was among the 20 best-performing stocks of the decade — came on the back of the exclusive franchise to distribute Hitachi excavators and cranes in this country.

At the same time, Mr Shute was sorting through some of the mechanical engineering industry's worst performers to improve and add to his own manufacturing base. An example: turnover at Benford Concrete Machinery has doubled after it was bought following a bad-tempered fight in 1986.

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Gearing is unlikely to exceed 10 per cent by the June financial year-end, for which

BM should report about £23 million pre-tax and 35 per cent eps growth.

For 1990-91, pre-tax profits could top £30 million, putting the shares, 10p above their low for the year at 231p in a very thin market, on a prospective p/e in the region of 8. Attractive.

IPC

JUNIOR exploration companies are as good as the next oil well they spud, and executives of International Petroleum Corporation (IPC), registered in Canada, are warning up their Scandinavian, European, British and North American shareholders to put their hands in their pockets to the tune of £15 million (£7.5 million) to fund the next round of exploration activities.

IPC has acreage in faraway places with strange sounding names — Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, Bakuha and Ghubali, Oman; Pandora, offshore Papua New Guinea. IPC senses opportu-

nities in Libya, Malaysia and Vietnam.

IPC shares traded on the London market under rule 535 at Can\$2.50 on Friday, equivalent to 126p (high, 138p, low 121p) and would enjoy a wider British following if they secured a full London listing.

IPC operates in 13 countries and has interests in 27 million acres worldwide. Its joint-venture farmout partners down the years have included the good and the great in the oil world — Exxon, Occidental, Amoco, Phillips and Chevron. The favour of IPC is that it goes where others often fear to tread, and where risks and rewards can be high.

IPC is due to participate in 15 exploration wells between now and 1992 to test potential reserves, net to IPC, of 2.5 billion barrels of oil. And the company is likely to finalize terms for its fund-raising issue (which will include a warrant, and could be priced at about Can\$3 a unit) in June.

IPC has the possibilities of being an interesting, but none the less speculative, punt.

Coloroll

THE market gave its own view of the "rescue" plan announced by Candover Investments for Coloroll last week. The shares tumbled by almost two-thirds to hit a new low of 4 1/4p by Friday's close as investors scrambled to take what little was on offer.

No details are yet available of Candover's plans, but they will probably leave any shareholders except the three institutions in its consortium with a minute holding in an unquoted company. They would be given the "opportunity" — an ironic word — to put in more of their money.

The only other ship on the horizon is a long-shot attempt by the two Swedish shareholders to put together their own rescue. This is at an even earlier stage than Candover's but might just result in a maintained stock market quote.

Release of report on IoM bank sought

By A Correspondent

AN APPLICATION will be made on Wednesday to the Manx High Court for the Chadwick Report, which investigated the collapse of the Savings & Investment Bank, to be released to the Manx Government, which has not seen it, and the public.

The application may be refused because Mr Robert Killin and Mr John Cunningham, former directors of the bank, are defendants in a prosecution still pending at Manchester Crown Court.

The case in Manchester involves Pennine Commercial Holdings, which banked with the SIB.

The Manx Government has already released the Farran and Hyde Report, which it commissioned, and which also investigated the collapse of the SIB. It has said it wants the Chadwick Report to be published as soon as possible.

The report took more than three years to complete, contains more than 500 pages and cost the Manx Government £1.4 million.

It is thought the Manx court may release the report, which was used by defending and prosecuting counsel in the SIB trial, only to the Manx Government and to the members of Tynwald, the Manx parliament.

Singapore Land loses bid battle

UNITED Industrial Corporation has won a US\$1.3 billion battle to take over Singapore Land, the largest hostile bid in Singapore's history.

The conglomerate secured 67.4 per cent of Singland's shares by the weekend and is now expected to put together a financing package, including a rights issue and possibly some property disposals, to reduce debt caused by the acquisition.

UIC was interested initially only in taking a majority stake in Singapore Land, but under Singapore law must continue buying shares at the \$7.50-a-share offer price now the bid has gone unconditional.

GILT-EDGED

ERM pleasure for pound may also bring pain

Retail price inflation is 9.4 per cent and likely to edge higher during the summer months. Wage inflation is running at 9.5 per cent and, with several pay settlements around 10 per cent, upward pressures are likely to persist even in the face of rising unemployment.

In addition, import prices are 9 per cent higher than a year ago. And just to keep the monetarists happy, bank lending continues to rise at 20 per cent, while M0 strays further from its 1 to 5 per cent target. With all the inflation indicators flashing bright red, it was not surprising that the gilt market threw an impromptu party last week as speculation mounted over imminent entry to the Exchange Rate Mechanism.

If the Bank of England and Treasury cannot cut inflation and interest rates, then surely the Bundesbank can. ERM offers a better opportunity to crack Britain's perennial problem of relatively high inflation.

Given the increasingly discretionary nature of British monetary and fiscal policy and the loss of credibility suffered by the Government in its conduct and management of policy, the ERM imposes a much-needed financial discipline.

Certainly, sterling can benefit from ERM entry. Here, the Spanish experience is illuminating. The peseta has been one of the strongest performers within the ERM, though Spanish interest rates remain high, and rose after ERM entry. Similarly, sterling could move quite easily up to the DM3 level from what is likely to be a central rate of DM2.80, but there may be interest rate disappointment. ERM membership is by no means a quick fix for high inflation economies. It is quite likely to be a long haul for Britain. Certainly, the French economy had to suffer a considerable squeeze on output and employment and

implement a high interest rate and strong franc policy before seeing visible benefits of lower inflation. Despite having inflation rates close to 3 per cent on average for almost five years, French short-term rates are still 10 per cent — 2 per cent higher than Germany's.

So even with the bonus of ERM entry, the gilt market is vulnerable to interest-rate disappointment.

Headline retail price inflation is likely to start falling in September, but the trend will be gradual, with the Treasury's forecast of 7.25 per cent in the fourth quarter exceeded by at least one percentage point.

However, wage and other pressures will prevent an early reduction in underlying inflation.

The impact of government-induced price pressures this year on the Retail Prices Index are well-documented. Less well-documented is the potential inflation pressure coming from public expenditure; about £30 billion higher than the plans laid out in the 1989 Budget for the period up to fiscal year 1992-93.

Increased spending of this size will do little to bear down on inflation, and until the structural issues underpinning Britain's inflation are properly addressed, high interest rates will stay even within the ERM.

As far as more mundane matters are concerned, this week's trade data is likely to show some improvement in the deficit, while there may be some moderation from the glidy levels of bank lending seen in March. This may be enough to keep the firm going in last week's party, but, as is sometimes the case, the greater the pleasure, the greater the cost. Enjoy the hangover.

Neil MacKinnon
Chief Economist
Yamaichi International

PRICE OF THE STORMS

	Pre-tax profits	Forecast for 1990 share
Commercial Union	£225.6m (+£45.1m)	£62.1m (£151m) 472p
General Accident	£80.9m (+£54.9m)	£25m (£147m) 1045p
Royal Insurance	£79m (+£52m)	£25m (£126m) 457p

*Kilnworth Bureau

Smaller firms plan for growth

By Melinda Wittstock

A SURVEY carried out by Investors in Industry, the venture capitalists better known as 3i, has pointed to an upturn in growth among smaller companies.

Of 4,000 small and medium-sized companies surveyed by 3i, 60 per cent said they expect sales to rise in the next three months, compared with 55 per cent in the last quarterly survey, in January.

Thirty-five per cent forecast increased investment, compared with 28 per cent.

More than half — 57 per cent — plan to increase their workforce during 1990, with only 22 per cent expecting to cut jobs. This compares with the recent CBI Industrial Trends Survey, in which more than a third of the companies questioned said they would reduce their workforce in the next four months, only 11 per cent said they would create jobs.

"These results underline the vital contribution of the smaller-company sector to the recovery of the economy," said Mr David Marlow, 3i's chief executive. "It is in smaller businesses that job creation is taking place."

But 53 per cent in the 3i survey said high interest rates were "a serious problem" and 42 per cent expected the uniform business rate to have an adverse effect in the next three months.

BA profits tipped to fly above £300m

ANALYSTS will be hoping for a positive statement on bookings from Lord King, chairman of British Airways, when he reports tomorrow, as the airline plans a 10 per cent increase in capacity this year.

Higher oil prices have affected fuel costs, but this should be offset by strong traffic growth in the last quarter. Mr Andy Chambers at Nomura Research expects final pre-tax profits to rise from £268 million to £307 million, although this does not include gains on asset disposals, which are estimated at about £35 million. Market forecasts range from £295 million to £350 million.

TODAY

Final pre-tax profits at Associated British Foods, the milling and bakeries group with a 2.5 per cent holding in Berrisford International, the British Sugar group, are expected to climb from £237 million to £282 million, according to Mr Campbell Watterson at Flemings Research.

Interim: Carlton Communications, Fairfax Books, Great Western Resources, Radio City (Sound Of Music), Radio 4, Radio 5, Radio 6, Radio 7, Radio 8, Radio 9, Radio 10, Radio 11, Radio 12, Radio 13, Radio 14, Radio 15, Radio 16, Radio 17, Radio 18, Radio 19, Radio 20, Radio 21, Radio 22, Radio 23, Radio 24, Radio 25, Radio 26, Radio 27, Radio 28, Radio 29, Radio 30, Radio 31, Radio 32, Radio 33, Radio 34, Radio 35, Radio 36, Radio 37, Radio 38, Radio 39, Radio 40, Radio 41, Radio 42, Radio 43, Radio 44, Radio 45, Radio 46, Radio 47, Radio 48, Radio 49, Radio 50, Radio 51, Radio 52, Radio 53, Radio 54, Radio 55, Radio 56, Radio 57, Radio 58, Radio 59, Radio 60, Radio 61, Radio 62, Radio 63, Radio 64, Radio 65, Radio 66, Radio 67, Radio 68, Radio 69, Radio 70, Radio 71, Radio 72, Radio 73, Radio 74, Radio 75, Radio 76, Radio 77, Radio 78, Radio 79, Radio 80, Radio 81, Radio 82, Radio 83, Radio 84, Radio 85, Radio 86, Radio 87, Radio 88, Radio 89, Radio 90, Radio 91, Radio 92, Radio 93, 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Radio 1004, Radio 1005, Radio 1006, Radio 1007, Radio 1008, Radio 1009, Radio 1010, Radio 1011, Radio 1012, Radio 1013, Radio 1014, Radio 1015, Radio 1016, Radio 1017, Radio 1018, Radio 1019, Radio 1020, Radio 1021, Radio 1022, Radio 1023, Radio 1024, Radio 1025, Radio 1026, Radio 1027, Radio 1028, Radio 1029, Radio 1030, Radio 1031, Radio 1032, Radio 1033, Radio 1034, Radio 1035, Radio 1036, Radio 1037, Radio 1038, Radio 1039, Radio 1040, Radio 1041, Radio 1042, Radio 1043, Radio 1044, Radio 1045, Radio 1046, Radio 1

ECONOMIC VIEW

Spending round starts with reserve empty

Stephen Littlechild: facing a difficult decision

Eighty-six per cent of those

The closing date for entries is Friday. Winners will be announced in November at a London ceremony. Entry packs are available by ringing Freephone 0800 590 926.

AFTER A 15-month search, Warburg Securities — which has Granada, Rank, Ladbroke and Thorn EMI among its clients — has found a leisure analyst. Sans such a specialist since Lindsay Russell left for BZW, Mark Loveland, who heads the electronics team, has been filling the gap on top of his other duties. The new man, starting in June, is Mark Beibiv, 29, of Hoare Govett, formerly with ANZ merchant bank and Morgan Stanley.

Italian change

That is more important than it was in the last survey because the focus of decisions is likely to switch back on to the Treasury's planning total this year. Last year's revisions to the system of public spending control left little alternative but to focus on the wider concept of general government expenditure

ands & Labrand Delotte, Cooper Taylor & Co, Finner & Co, Fox Wilkams, Grant Thornton, Grady Iveson Franks, Harter Young, Hellenell Landau, Hays Allen, Hummel & Co, J. J. Hummel & Marks, Jare Augustin Smith, Lacy Cox, Lubbock Fine, Malcolm McLeod, Miller Bros, Moore Roseland, Nash Broad, Yerkes Russell, Pannell Kerr Forster, Pann-
 HARRIS: Paul Marwick, Pol-Lanark, Profile-Brewster, Robinson & Hunter, P. W. Stephens & Co, Stern Hayward, Thacker Bros & Co, Turner Kenneth Brown, Wilson Green Gibbs.

Carol Leonard

Cartoons star in US theme park wars

From Philip Robinson
Los Angeles

Hollywood is writing its own film script this year in a dash to buy every available cartoon character, which studios see as a new gold mine.

Once lifted from the celluloid, they can be blown up life size for personal appearances as instant attractions at studio tours or make huge profits from merchandising.

MCA Inc, owner of Universal Studios, is believed to be in talks to buy Hanna-Barbera, creator of The Flintstones, Yogi Bear, Huckleberry Hound, the Jetsons and Scooby Doo.

Universal is already co-producing a full-length feature of The Jetsons due out in America this summer and is also working on a big-screen version of The Flintstones.

Analysts are having difficulty valuing the cartoon studio between \$200-\$500 million. But they are convinced the Great American Communications company, Hanna-Barbera's owner, could use the cash as a \$165 million payment on junk bonds it due within five months.

Whatever the price, MCA needs the characters to be taken seriously as a competitor of Disney in theme parks. Last summer, Disney won The Muppets, one of the last real valuable properties in the character war.

MCA's cartoon stock has never been large. But its renowned Hollywood Studio Tour is popular for the behind-the-scenes glimpses of film making.

Disney's concept is much more a family entertainment fairground built around the characters that the public has grown up with in the past 50 years. Industry sources say MCA needs more characters for its studio attractions in Florida, and others it plans for Japan and Rainham marshes, Essex, or Paris.

MCA's first taste of theme park wars starts in June at Orlando, Florida with the opening of its studio tour, backed by \$100 million of advertising. It will be the first taste of US corporate warfare for the Rank Organisation, which has put \$150 million into the theme park.

North Americans wire up to £10bn potential of UK cable

By Melinda Wittstock

BRITAIN'S fledgling cable television industry, seems destined to be British in name only.

City unease about the high cost of installing cable networks and slow returns has opened the door to North American cable and telephone companies, which already own more than 90 per cent of an industry expected to be worth £10 billion by the year 2000.

New legislation in the form of the Broadcasting Bill, which allows for 100 per cent foreign ownership of the entire cable industry, will ensure that the door is kept wide open.

Mr David Mellor, the Minister for Broadcasting, has been careful to limit non-EC ownership and voting control of the new Channel 3 franchises to 20 per cent and 1 per cent respectively under the Bill.

But he has given non-EC cable companies a free rein to run an industry sure to be significantly larger than terrestrial television, particularly given the added dimension of cable telephony, radio and a host of other services such as home banking, tele-shopping, data links and even voting.

Cable TV operators will even be exempt under the Bill from rules limiting concentration of ownership or restricting cross-media holdings, although the Independent Television Commission, replacing the IBA and the Cable Authority in July, will have some discretion - subject to judicial review - over takeovers.

Not only does this mean cable operators could merge, but they could buy an unlimited number of independent production houses, which will supply them with programming, and just about anything else in the media. Technically, there is nothing stopping a newspaper or television company from taking over a cable operator.

"The Broadcasting Bill's failure to come up with any ownership rules on cable makes a nonsense of the new government restrictions on non-EC and cross ownership of terrestrial television," said Mr Chris Akers, a broadcasting analyst with Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker.



'City switched on too late': Jon Davey, director-general of the Cable Authority

"Ten years from now the cable industry could be earning £1.5 billion a year - a sum which will disappear across the Atlantic."

But it is not as if the Bill, due to receive Royal Assent in July, will make much difference to the existing situation. North American ownership is already a *fait accompli*.

North American telecommunications companies, seeking a way into the deregulated European telephone and cable market of 1992, revived the fortunes of British cable by committing \$4 billion on more than 90 per cent of the cable franchises put on offer by the Cable Authority.

This was despite rules preventing non-EC control of British cable franchises under the Cable and Broadcasting Act of 1984. Large, cash-rich

North American regional telephone operators, the "Baby Bells," found their way round the ownership laws through discretionary trusts based in the Channel Islands.

These allowed them to "control the operating company in this country," admitted the Cable Authority, which has greatly encouraged North American investment.

"The UK investment community had its chance and it didn't take it," said Mr Jon Davey, the director-general of the Cable Authority, which has now closed its doors to franchise applications ending a programme that will book up two-thirds of British homes to cable by 1995.

Of 135 franchises advertised, 96 have been awarded and of those, 91 have US or Canadian parents, said Mr

Davey. Of the remaining 39, the Cable Authority has received just one application for one franchise area from a British-funded group.

Metro Network, which raised £45 million of City finance, lost to Cable London, a company controlled by US West and Comcast, for the Hackney and Islington franchise. It finds out this week if it has won Hounslow and Hillingdon.

"We're not prepared to give reasons for our decisions in awarding franchises, but Britishness is not enough," said Mr Davey.

US West, a regional telephone company covering 14 US states, has significant interests in 11 awarded British cable franchises, covering more than 3 million homes, with applications tendered for another five. Videotron, the

USM REVIEW

Ashtead unveils foothold in US construction



Lewis: US ambitions

ASSTEAD Group, the plant hire group, will unveil details today of its first US acquisition, a company based in both North and South Carolina, which hires non-operated plant to the construction industry.

It is also appointing BZW as its first banking adviser and stockbroker and is planning to graduate to the main market.

Ashtead, voted the USM Company of 1989 at the market's annual dinner in March, is paying an initial \$413,000 plus up to \$2.1 million in cash more - given pre-tax profits of \$900,000 in the year to end-December 1990 - for Sunbelt Equipment & Rentals.

"We've been looking for a long while to do two things," said Mr Peter Lewis, chairman of Ashtead.

"To expand into a UK business not dependent on the UK construction market, and that led last month to the purchase of Substek, a company concerned with renting survey and inspection equipment to sub-sea contractors.

"And to use the skills we think we have in the construction market, in another coun-

try. We looked at and rejected Europe for the moment because the short-term rental of equipment is a new concept there.

"But in the US the market for this activity is eight times the size of Britain's in terms of money but, in percentage terms, given that the US economy is 20 times our size, it is much less developed."

Mr Lewis said: "We hope to go for a full listing at the end of the summer, because we want to widen our share ownership. You can't go on being in the juvenile league for ever."

Carol Leonard

A sweet new look comes to Lovell

THE past year has not been easy for any small company. But for a loss-making sweet maker being transformed into a building products group, it has been particularly tumultuous.

In February last year a consortium led by Mr Peter Woodman bought a 76.6 per cent stake in GF Lovell. By August, it had paid £20 million for four building materials companies and raised £10.7 million in a rights issue.

Next month, the company produces results for the year to end-March. Analysts expect pre-tax profits of £1.5 million, compared with a £255,000 loss

for 1988-1989. The difference comes from the building components companies, consolidated for seven months.

Mr Bob Taylor, managing director, says the downturn in construction has not affected Lovell. Its two main companies have no exposure to the housebuilding market and the other two are partly underpinned by demand from commercial developers.

To mark their confidence, the directors are changing the company's name to Albrighton and the sweet business is for sale.

Neil Bennett

Securities prices have been held out owing to lack of space.

House of Lords

Harassment need not be civil wrong

Regina v Burke
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Roskill, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry [Speeches May 17]

An act of harassment, if done with the purpose or motive of causing a residential occupier to give up his occupation, did not have to be an actionable civil wrong to be an offence under section 1(3) of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Alisdair David Burke from the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Glidewell, Mr Justice Hodgson and Mr Justice Goffe) (1989) 1 WLR 839 who in May 1988 had dismissed his appeal against his conviction of two offences at Knightsbridge Crown Court (Judge Hayman and a jury) in April 1987. He had been fined £250 on each count with £450 costs.

Section 1 of the 1977 Act provides: "(3) If any person with intent to cause the residential occupier of any premises - (a) to give up the occupation of the premises or any part thereof; or (b) to refrain from exercising any right or pursuing any remedy in respect of the premises or part thereof; does acts calculated to interfere with the peace or comfort of the residential occupier or members of his household, or persistently withdraws or withholds services reasonably required for the occupation of the premises as a residence, he shall be guilty of an offence."

Mr John Stuart Colyer, QC and Mr Richard Stowe for the appellant; Mr Derek Wood, QC

and Mr Martin Seaward for the Crown.

LORD GRIFFITHS said the appellant had bought No 43 Fitzroy Street, Westminster, in about 1983. The defendant had alleged harassment by him against a number of tenants who had been living there at the time of his purchase.

The principal act of harassment relied on by the prosecution was, in summary, that Mr Hasan had been a tenant since 1972 using the lavatory and bathroom in the basement adjacent to his room. The appellant had prevented him from doing so by storing furniture in the bathroom and corridor.

The appellant had padlocked the door to the lavatory on the half landing between the ground and first floors and disconnected a front door bell communicating with the basement.

In the case of other tenants, the Gestos, the appellant had disconnected the front door bell communicating with the first floor.

In relation to those two cases, the appellant had claimed the jury that none of the principal matters complained of constituted a breach of contract on the appellant's part.

He had continued: "The fact that these tenants were not entitled, as a matter of law, to have a system of front door bells does not end the matter... If you are sure he did those acts (whatever the civil law may be) with the purpose or the aim of getting the tenants to leave, then you will convict."

In so directing the jury he had applied the law as laid down by the Court of Appeal in *Yuihiwatana* (1984) 80 Cr App R 353. The Court of Appeal in the present case had held itself bound to follow that decision and agreed with it.

In *Yuihiwatana* the act of harassment relied on by the prosecution had been the landlady's refusal to replace a missing front door key for an occupier.

The appellant submitted that *Yuihiwatana* had been wrongly decided and that to constitute an offence against section 1(3) the conduct complained of had to amount to a breach of the civil law in that it was either a breach of contract or a tort.

As Lord Justice Glidewell said in *Yuihiwatana*, the act of harassment, which involved reading "unlawful" into the subsection before "acts".

The appellant argued that because section 1(3)(b) was dealing with an intent to interfere with what were clearly civil rights or remedies of an occupier it must follow that the conduct aimed at evicting the occupiers (section 1(3)(a)) was likewise conduct that interfered with a civil right of the occupier actionable as a civil wrong.

That argument was not well founded. The 1977 Act repealed Part III of the Rent Act 1965 headed "Protection against harassment and eviction without due process of law".

The 1965 Act had created the criminal offence of harassment as a response to the Report of the Committee on Housing in Greater London (1965) (Cmd 2605), the *Milner Holland Report*.

That report had revealed a shocking variety of abuses to which landlords were subjecting their tenants to obtain vacant possession of rent-restricted properties. It had abounded in examples of unconscionable harassment and cited the New York Police Statute as an example of a statute that made criminal that type of abuse, which at present fell short of a civil or criminal wrong. When section 30(2) of the 1965 Act had been enacted it had closely followed the form of the New York Police Statute.

The social evil was so clearly set out in the report that his Lordship was quite satisfied that Parliament had deliberately chosen the language of section 30(2) to make any action likely to interfere with the peace or comfort of the occupier a criminal offence if it was performed with the civil intention (that is, purpose or motive) of causing the occupier to give up occupation.

A further reason for rejecting the argument that the act had to involve a civil wrong was that harassment was not confined to the landlord and tenant relationship. There might be no contractual relationship of any kind between the victim and the harasser, an obvious example being fellow occupiers who had fallen out.

Yuihiwatana and the present case had thus been correctly decided.

Lord Keith, Lord Roskill, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: Iqbal & Co, Paddington; Mr F. Nickson, Camden.

James v Northampton Borough Council and Another
Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Farquharson [Judgment May 15]

A club officer or a member of a committee, who undertook to perform a task on behalf of the other club members during which he acquired actual knowledge of circumstances giving rise to a risk of injury to members, had a duty to inform the members of that risk. Failure to do so would result in liability in tort to the injured member.

The Court of Appeal stated in dismissing an appeal by the Northampton Borough Council, from a decision of Judge May given on March 9, 1989 in Northampton County Court by which he directed Mr Owen to indemnify the first defendant, Northampton Borough Council, in respect of damages payable by the council to the plaintiff, Hugh Glyn Jones.

Mr Jones was a member and Mr Owen was chairman of the Northampton branch of the Shepherd Group of Clubs, which was formed among the employees of the Shepherd Group of companies.

The members on the committee, which included Mr Jones, decided to play five-a-side football and the Lings Forum Sports Centre, owned and operated by the council, was hired for that purpose. The hiring form was signed by Mr Owen.

Mr Jones was injured when another player slipped on a pool of water on the floor which had come from a hole in the roof and collided heavily with him. He sued the council and Mr Owen for damages. The council settled the action for £3,000 and claimed a full indemnity from Mr Owen under the Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978.

The judge had held that Mr Owen was liable to indemnify the council under the 1978 Act and under a contractual indemnity contained in the printed conditions incorporated in the hiring form.

Mr Mark Turner for Mr Owen; Mr Charles Harris, QC, for the council.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that judgment on the claim for a contractual indemnity was unassailable and the council's only viable claim against the second defendant was for contribution under the Act.

The judge found that the leak in the roof and the risk of slipping caused by the wetness of the floor were known to the council before both the booking of the hall by the plaintiff's defendant and the second defendant was told about it and given the choice of cancelling the competition or waiting for the rain to stop; and that the second defendant had decided to carry on with the competition.

On the judge's findings and on Mr Owen's submissions, the council was not liable to the plaintiff at all because the

of it by the warning given to the second defendant. That warning was enough to enable the plaintiff as a visitor to be reasonably safe.

The finding that the council was not liable to the plaintiff, however, precluded recovery by the council against the second defendant on the contractual indemnity. If the law were otherwise, the council, although not liable to the plaintiff, could agree to pay damages to him and recover the damages from the second defendant irrespective of whether the second defendant was liable in tort to the plaintiff.

It was not disputed that it was open to the judge, if the evidence supported such a view, to find that the council were entitled to contribution to the extent of a full indemnity against the second defendant on the grounds that the council had made a *bona fide* settlement of the plaintiff's claim and that the second defendant had been guilty of negligence which caused the plaintiff's injury.

The first question was whether the second defendant owed any duty of care to the plaintiff with reference to the safety of the pitch on which those men were playing football. It was submitted that, as a matter of law, no duty of care of a relevant nature was owed by one club member to another. Reliance was placed on *Prole*

v Allen ([1950] All ER 476) and *Robertson v Ralley* ([1989] 1 WLR 474).

In his Lordship's judgment, there was nothing in either of those cases upon which could be founded a claim of immunity available in law to one member of a club against a claim by another member of the club, being an immunity based merely on their joint membership, if the claimant could demonstrate that, according to ordinary principles of law, the defendant member of the club was under a duty of care in respect of the circumstances which caused the claimant's injury and that the defendant was guilty of negligence.

The cases relied on by the second defendant were no more than examples of the rule that the mere fact of common membership of a club, even coupled with membership of a committee on the part of the defendant, did not by itself give rise to a duty of care.

It was open to the court to find that a duty of care existed where a club officer or a member of a committee took upon himself some task which he was to perform for other members of the club in the course of which he acquired actual knowledge of circumstances which he knew gave rise to risk of injury to club members acting as he knew they would or

might be expected to act if not told of the cause of danger.

No doubt the nature of the relationship between members of a club would be such that it would be impossible to find that one member had undertaken any responsibility to inspect, or to inquire, or to consider whether circumstances would or might give rise to a risk of injury.

But there might be circumstances in which a member acquired knowledge both of the actual danger and of the fact that, if a warning was not given, the members on whose behalf he had undertaken to perform a task would be exposed to risk of injury.

In such circumstances it was open to the court to find that a duty of care existed and was broken.

The judge's findings supported his conclusion that the second defendant owed a duty of care to the plaintiff and that he was in breach of it. That was a conclusion which the judge was entitled to reach on the evidence and it was impossible for the court to disturb it.

Lord Justice Purchas delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Farquharson agreed.

Solicitors: Lace Mawer, Manchester; Shakespeares, Birmingham.

Judge should honour sentence promise made in chambers

Regina v Johnson
Regina v Lorraine

Where a judge, after a trial had opened, had told counsel in chambers that if defendants entered pleas which were acceptable to the Crown they would receive non-custodial sentences, that promise should be honoured.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Brooke) so held on April 27 when allowing appeals by Lisa Jane Johnson and Jayne Lorraine against sentences imposed upon them by Judge Raymond Dean at the Central Criminal Court.

Johnson, who had been sentenced to 12 months youth custody for attempted child destruction and assault occasioning bodily harm, had a two-year probation order substituted. Lorraine, who had been jailed for seven months for assault and breach of a probation order, had that sentence suspended for two years.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS, delivering the judgment of the court, said that during a discussion in chambers with counsel and after the trial had begun, the trial judge had made certain assurances to counsel to the effect that if pleas were

entered which were acceptable to the Crown, the defendants would receive non-custodial sentences.

After such pleas had been entered, and when the judge came to sentence the defendants, he did not mention his earlier remarks to counsel.

His Lordship said that the court was quite satisfied that the defendants would never have changed their pleas but for the judge's assurances.

It was most unfortunate that a request had not been made for a shorthand writer to be present to record the discussion in chambers.

Correct approach to sentencing poisoning offences

Regina v Jones (Ronald Gordon)

When considering the sentence to be imposed on conviction of an offence of maliciously administering any poison or other destructive or noxious thing, with intent to injure, aggrieve or annoy, contrary to section 24 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, the right approach was to equate that offence with either a section 20 offence of inflicting bodily injury, or perhaps with a fairly serious offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, on which he was acquitted.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Glidewell, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and Mr Justice Fennell) so held on May 4 when allowing an appeal by Ronald Gordon Jones against a sentence imposed on July 24, 1989 on his conviction in Liverpool Crown Court (Mr Justice Jupp and a jury) of an offence under section 24 as an alternative to the offence charged under section 23, of administering poison with intent to endanger life or inflict grievous bodily harm, on which he was acquitted.

the sentence to 18 months imprisonment and suspended the balance to be served.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the offence came before the court relatively rarely and thus it was not easy to find a comparable case. However, some guidance was to be found from the maximum sentences that Parliament had provided for the offences under the 1861 Act.

Their Lordships had concluded that the sentence imposed by the judge was, in the

One defendant can force all to crown court

Regina v Brentwood Justices,
Ex parte Nicholls

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Potts [Judgment May 16]

Where a number of defendants before justices were jointly charged with an offence and one of them elected crown court trial and the others elected summary trial, all of them had to be committed to the crown court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an application for judicial review brought by the defendant, Mark Ernest Nicholls against the decision of Brentwood Justices who, on January 16, 1990, committed him together with two co-defendants to Chelmsford Crown Court to stand trial on a charge of affray contrary to section 2 of the Public Order Act 1986.

Mr Michael M. Wood for the defendant; Mr Andrew Williams for the prosecution; Mr John Laws as *amicus curiae*.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that in the magistrates' court when the case was called on, the defendants were identified, the charge was read and the mode of trial procedure commenced.

The prosecution outlined the facts to the justices and submitted that the case was suitable for summary trial.

summary trial. The solicitor acting for the defendant and one of the co-accused also submitted the case was suitable for summary trial.

At that stage no recommendation was put forward on behalf of the third defendant. The justices decided that the case was suitable for summary trial.

The clerk put the defendants to their election under section 20(3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 and addressed the third defendant who elected trial at the crown court.

The prosecution then asked the justices to reconsider the mode of trial in respect of the other two defendants. The clerk advised the justices that it would be more suitable if all three defendants were dealt with by the same court.

The solicitor acting for the other two defendants strongly demurred. The clerk put the election to the other two defendants who both consented to summary trial. Further submissions were made.

The justices retired and when they returned they said that they would abide by the age old custom and practice whatever the words of the 1980 Act might say, the justices would commit all the defendants.

It was clear to his Lordship that there was in the magistrates' courts some confused associa-

tion of the application of sections 19, 20 and 25 of the 1980 Act.

The reference to "age old custom" seemed to his Lordship to ignore an appreciation of the use of the word "shall" in sections 20 and 21 was indicative of the mandatory nature of the provisions.

Mr Williams and Mr Laws contended that in a situation where 20 people were charged and 19 wanted summary trial and the other one wanted to be tried at the crown court it was an unavoidable consequence of the correct construction of the statute, that all 20 were committed to the crown court.

Not so, said Mr Wood. He pointed to Lord Bridge in *R v Dudley Justices*, Ex parte Gillard ([1986] AC 442). He also submitted that the use of the word "shall" in sections 20 and 21 was indicative of the mandatory nature of the provisions.

Mr Laws made the following submissions which were supported by Mr Williams: Under section 19(1) the justices were required to form a view as to the mode of trial before the offence, not the defendants. If there was more than one offence, the justices could in principle arrive at a different view in respect of each offence.

Mr Laws submitted that the

words "the accused" in section 20 included the plural on the basis of section 6(c) of the Interpretation Act 1978. Section 20 was clearly mandatory and each defendant was entitled to be put to his election.

Mr Laws submitted finally that what Lord Bridge said in *Gillard* was wrong.

His Lordship agreed with those submissions. In the case where a number of defendants before the justices were jointly charged with one offence and one of them elected to be tried on indictment, although the others consented to summary trial, they all had to be committed to trial.

His Lordship recognized that in certain situations that would lead to an unsatisfactory state of affairs for those who wanted to be tried summarily if possible. Nevertheless, that was what Parliament had enacted. It might be that it was necessary for some reconsideration of the section to be made in the light of the difficulties which would inevitably arise when persons jointly charged differed as to the mode of trial.

The justices had come to the right decision albeit for the wrong reasons.

Mr Justice Potts agreed.

Solicitors: Gepp & Sons, Chelmsford; CPS, Chelmsford; Treasury Solicitor.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Delivering all the curriculum goods

Nicola wrote: "In Space Journey I liked the lift-off sheet best because if you added and took away and got them right you could go into space." The seven-year-old had not arrived home from a friend's party. She was describing one of the tests being tried out for the national curriculum at Stomford School in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

A beloved myth of scare-mongers is that testing children of seven means inflicting some kind of torture. In reality, it is an activity they are likely to enjoy more than their everyday lessons. It will reveal whether they can add and subtract, multiply and divide, into the bargain.

Test is the wrong word. The correct terminology is "standard assessment task" (SAT). It is for "standard" because it will be the same throughout the country. It is for "task" not "test" - activities that form part of a normal teaching programme. The difference is that these tasks are designed to lend themselves to the A in SAT, "assessing" - judging what the child has learnt.

Such judgements should be part of all school work. What is the point of teaching Nicholas or Nicola something and not wanting to know whether he or she has learnt it?

The purpose of the national curriculum is to provide a frame-

Teacher-parent fears about new tests are misplaced, argues Arthur Hearnden

work within which this can be done systematically.

The "wobbly" that is usually thrown in that on Tuesday Nicholas knows it and Nicola does not. And on Thursday, Nicola knows it and Nicholas does not.

Of course, judging what children learn during the year is a continuous process, of which the SAT is the culmination. The curriculum is divided into a number of "attainment targets". The teacher has the first two terms in which to make his or her judgement of the level the children have reached in every one of them.

In the summer term comes the SAT, which yields a second set of marks on the same targets. In many cases, they will confirm the teacher's judgements. Where the two differ, teachers will probably accept the SAT as more reliable, but disagreements can be settled by an outside examiner.

This is the new system, which is being tried out on a sample 2 per cent of the country's seven-year-olds. The trials will show whether the tests do justice to all the

children, from the most clever to the least clever, and whether they are manageable in the classroom. Stomford is one of six independent schools taking part voluntarily. Others will follow their lead, and assess pupils not just at seven, but at 11, 14 and 16.

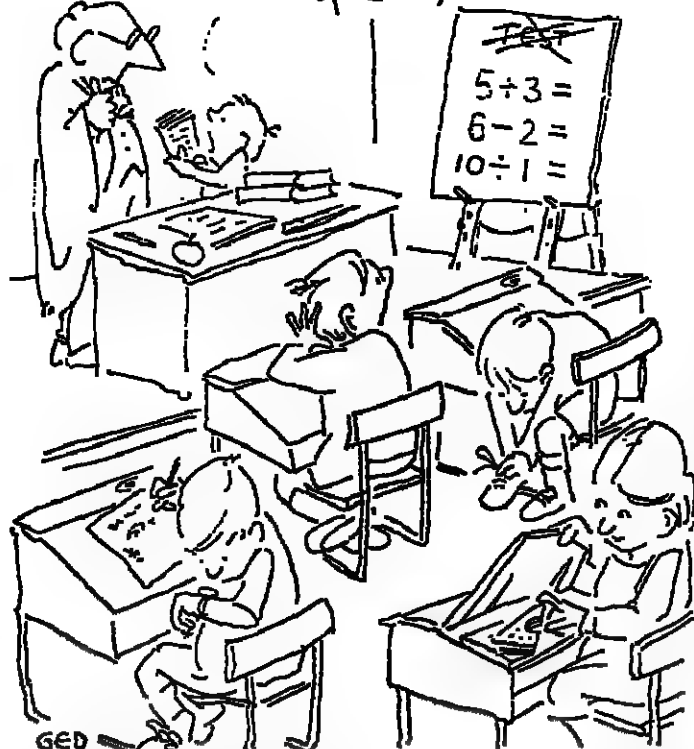
For the older pupils, the problems will be different. At 11, there is no consensus on whether teaching should be in combined or separate subjects. The tests will need to cater for both approaches. At 14, they will have to be useful as preliminary assessments before the two-year run-up to GCSE.

GCSE is the final stage in the process, so independent schools cannot remain aloof any more than they did from O level or its predecessor, the School Certificate. Our academic work is therefore bound to be influenced greatly by the subject specifications of the national curriculum.

The influence will naturally filter down to our own examination for transfer from preparatory to senior schools, Common Entrance. But no one should begin writing its obituary. Taken by some children at 11, some at 12 and some at 13, Common Entrance exists for the quite different purpose of enabling senior schools to choose between candidates competing for places. It calls for scrupulously objective methods.

This is not to cast doubt on the fairness of national curriculum

It's a thesis on the psychological merits of SAT.



GED

testing. But for selection to be seen to be fair, a more finely tuned instrument is needed. The 10 levels of the national curriculum are not enough. So, although preparatory schools will certainly benefit from the new curriculum thinking, they will continue to prepare their pupils for examinations of the traditional kind. Yet there are serious misgivings. The first is the pace of the operation. Take, for example, the teachers of seven-year-olds responsible individually for virtually every subject. There is much for them to absorb.

The other difficulty is finding

space for all the statutory subjects up to 16.

These are the misgivings of the teachers who do the work. John MacGregor, the Secretary of State, has obviously listened to them. He has slowed down the SAT programme and is tackling inflexibility at 14 to 16. The omens are promising.

We have been here before with GCSE. The profession delivered the goods then and it will do so again.

The author is general secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council and a member of the Secondary Examinations & Assessment Council.

Summer study in world adventure

Gordonstoun is a school with a difference

A little piece of Scotland is to become a centre of international excellence when Gordonstoun School launches its 14th annual summer school.

This was introduced by the Duke of Edinburgh, an old boy, in 1976, but has grown to two three-week courses, in July and August. Since 1976, 1,500 students from more than 30 countries have joined the summer school. They keep in contact with one another and with Gordonstoun.

This year, 220 boys and girls, aged 11 to 16, will attend the school, just outside Elgin. They will come from 25 countries, including, for the first time, the Soviet Union. Every one will pay £1,725, but this covers all costs, including return flights from Heathrow to Scotland and transport.

In his foreword to the summer school brochure, the Duke of Edinburgh says: "The Gordonstoun Summer Language and Adventure Course provides a splendid opportunity for boys and girls from other parts of the world to experience life in a foreign country and to make a start to learn, or to improve their knowledge of English."

"I do not suppose any future business or diplomatic appointment in a foreign country will be quite the same as this summer school course, but at least everything will be done to make this first introduction to the strange-

ness of a foreign country as happy and rewarding as possible."

Bryn Mowry, 15, from Los Angeles, is a former summer school student now studying full-time at Gordonstoun. He says: "Until you experience the summer school, you cannot appreciate it. The atmosphere is unbelievable. I made friends from all over the world."

James Thomas, senior master at the school and director of the summer school, says: "So that we can maintain the challenging nature of the courses and the high-level supervision for all students, we feel it best to limit the numbers. During the past year or two we have had to turn people away, hence the introduction of the second course."

Most instructors on the course are full-time teachers at Gordonstoun, and there is a staffing ratio of one member of staff to every two students. The students will study English, French, computer studies, British history and literature.

Mr Thomas says of the summer school: "We help young people from around the world learn about each other's customs and cultures. We want them to foster international and long-lasting friendships. There are regular reunions in Tokyo and in the US. We hope to hold similar events in Europe."

David Tytler
Education Editor

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

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Drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, crafts, printmaking, photography, video, audio, film, television, computer graphics, design, fashion, interior design, product design, architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, town planning, regional planning, environmental planning, transport planning, recreation planning, social planning, health planning, education planning, housing planning, urban design, landscape design, interior design, product design, architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, town planning, regional planning, environmental planning, transport planning, recreation planning, social planning, health planning, education planning, housing planning, urban design, landscape design, interior design, product design, architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, town planning, regional planning, environmental planning, transport planning, recreation planning, social planning, health planning, education planning, housing planning, urban 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MOTOR SPORT

Jaguar return with a one-two but Spice are the local heroes

By Stephen Slater

BRITISH cars broke the domination of Mercedes-Benz and returned to the forefront of sports car racing in spectacular style yesterday, when Jaguar scored a one-two victory and the Spice team took third place in front of a home crowd at Silverstone.

Mercedes-Benz started the third round of the world sports prototype championship with only a single car after one of their team was excluded from the meeting after an over-zealous mechanic had worked on the second team car at the track-side during the Saturday qualifying.

Despite this the "Silver Arrow" was still favourite for victory. Driven by Jean-Louis Schlesser, it out-accented the Jaguar of Martin Brundle to lead from the start, while the second Jaguar was left to fend off a strong challenge from the Nissan and Spice teams. Despite their non-turbo engines developing less power than their opposition, the two Spice cars of Tim Harvey and Bruce

Giacomelli proved to be the surprise of the race as Harvey

climbed to third place before being forced out with engine failure.

The perspective of the race changed completely on the fourth of the 101 laps when the Mercedes engine suddenly cut out on the far side of the circuit. Mauro Baldi retired in vain to restart but the Jaguar, now driven by Alain Ferté, moved into the lead as the Mercedes team suggested that a broken turbo-charger was the fault.

Behind the leading Jaguar the Nissan challenge for second and third place faded as Julian Bailey retired with a suspension failure and on the last lap the second car of Mark Blundell ran out of fuel.

"The Jags are back" was cheered from the grandstand as Brundle cruised to victory, a lap ahead of colleague Andy Wallace but an equal ovation was raised for the remaining Spice car of Giacomelli and

Ferté, as it took third place, the best world championship result for Silverstone's local team.

MIKA Hakkinen, of Finland, set a lap record of

101.93mph at Brands Hatch yesterday but had to settle for second place in the British Formula Three race. Compatriot Mika Salo won the race just 1.2 seconds clear of Hakkinen.

SILVERSTONE Shell BRCC Sports Trophy meeting Silverstone (lap distance 2.599) Formula Vauxhall Lotus Championship, round 11 (101 laps, 101.93 mph, 1:58.02 (115.22 mph, lap record). Leading championship standings: 1, Schlesser (Mercedes), 155.02 (115.22 mph, lap record). Leading championship standings: 1, Schlesser (Mercedes), 155.02 (115.22 mph, lap record). Leading championship standings: 1, Schlesser (Mercedes), 155.02 (115.22 mph, lap record).

BRITISH FORMULA THREE (10 laps, 101.93 mph, 1:58.02 (115.22 mph, lap record). Leading championship standings: 1, Schlesser (Mercedes), 155.02 (115.22 mph, lap record). Leading championship standings: 1, Schlesser (Mercedes), 155.02 (115.22 mph, lap record).

WORLD SPORTS PROTOTYPE (101 laps, 101.93 mph, 1:58.02 (115.22 mph, lap record). Leading championship standings: 1, Schlesser (Mercedes), 155.02 (115.22 mph, lap record).

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SPICE (101 laps, 101.93 mph, 1:58.02 (115.22 mph, lap record). Leading championship standings: 1, Schlesser (Mercedes), 155.02 (115.22 mph, lap record).

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Time flies by on an all-weather track



WHEN Roger Bamister ran the world's first sub four-minute mile at Mill Lane 36 years ago, he collapsed into the arms of officials at the finish.

How times have changed. When Simon Magillstone (above right) eased the most famous track record from the history books on Saturday, in a special mile race to commemorate the opening of the £250,000 all-weather track, he still had enough breath to sprint a lap of honour. Just 35 minutes later, he came back to win the university 5,000 metres race in 14mins 21sec.

Sir Roger was present to see his 3min 59.4sec record broken on a surface much more conducive to fast running than the cinder track on which he ran. "I hope it

made him a little breathless beating it," Sir Roger said.

Maggillstone, aged 22, a third-year geography student at Bedford College, Oxford University, hardly seemed to be sweating as he crossed the line in 3min 58.9sec, but said: "I had to work hard to break Sir Roger's record."

The former European junior 5,000 metres champion seemed like a starry-eyed track enthusiast when Sir Roger presented him with his medal. Another great miler from the past, John Landy, of Australia, who broke Sir Roger's record a few weeks after it had been set, told Magillstone how he had now made history himself.

"I feel I've taken a piece of sacred

property away," Magillstone said. "My achievement hardly compares with what Sir Roger and Landy achieved."

Sir Roger (pictured above checking his watch) had no regrets at losing the record. "They are made to be broken and I knew when I set it someone would eventually take it away from me," he said. "I'm just glad that it was an Oxford man who did it."

The four-minute mile is commonplace — Magillstone and Andrew Geddes (also above), who equalled Sir Roger's time in second place, were the 120th and 121st Britons to break the barrier. Sir Roger predicts the athletes of the future will be capable of running the distance in 3½ minutes.

Wightman named for Split

By David Powell

GEOFF Wightman, the only Englishman to finish the Commonwealth Games marathon in January, has been named as the third man to run the distance for Britain in the European championships in Split from August 27 to September 1. Wightman, aged 29, will accompany Alister Hutton, the AIT London Marathon winner and Carl Thackeray.

In selecting Wightman at the weekend, the British Amateur Athletic Board recognized his error in stating last month that his third attempt would not be announced until after the 10,000 metres trial on June 29. Nine weeks' notice of a place would have been woefully inadequate.

Now the board, denied the services of its preferred marathon runner, has given Wightman the chance he deserves after finishing eighth and second Briton behind Steve Jones, in Auckland.

Wightman, who has run four marathons, has improved in each of his last three, his 2hr 14min 15sec in Auckland coming in spite of several stops for a calf injury. Personal bests will be few in Split, where the course is hilly, but Wightman said yesterday: "I would hope that, having kept the sequence going where I have known about 40 seconds off in each marathon, I could at least do that."

Mark McKoy, the Canadian hurdler banned for two years from representing his country after quelling the Olympic team, and accused by Ben Jonsson's coach of taking steroids, is set to become a member of Cardiff Athletics Club.

Kelvin Hall still in running for international contests

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THE Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, will continue to be used as a venue for international fixtures despite the fire surrounding the staging of the 21st European indoor championships there in March. A British Amateur Athletic Board council meeting concluded at the weekend that it was satisfied that the bowlers which blighted the March event would not be repeated.

From too numerous to list, but which included the incorrect positioning of hurdles, forcing a women's semi-final to be rerun, the simultaneous starting of the men's 3,000 metres final and the East German national anthem saluting Jens-Peter Herold's win

in the 1,500 metres, and the publication of wrongly drawn heats led to condemnation of the organization by the European Athletic Association. "I think the EAA council would be very careful before granting such future competitions to Britain," Pierre Desrues, the EAA secretary, said in response to the barrage.

The chairman of the BAAB, Marcus Hermans, and the chairman of the Amateur Athletic Association, Bill Evans, visited Glasgow as part of an official inquiry. They spoke to representatives of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association and Glasgow City Council.

Solo run takes Elliott within Coe's record

By a Special Correspondent

PETER Elliott, the Commonwealth champion from Rotham, produced a characteristic solo run to break Sebastian Coe's Yorkshire record for the 1,500 metres in the Yorkshire championships at Sheffield yesterday.

Coe set his time of 3min 39.1sec eight years ago at Cleckheaton, before he moved to live in London and Elliott, who has always operated in his shadow, shaved one-fifth of a second from that mark with his winning time of 3:38.9.

Elliott, aged 27, had the additional task of running a heat to qualify, in 3:51.2 — worth a mile in 4:50 — only 90 seconds before the final. When Coe set his record, it came from a

straight final. Elliott decided to go for his target only when he lined up for the final. He had for company only one other runner in the field, Simon Fielding, the former titleholder. The Leeds City international, made a serious attempt to stay with Elliott but it was when his challenge wilted about 900 metres into the race, shortly after the 800 metre mark had been passed in 1:55.3, that Elliott found himself on his own.

The Rotham man, looking bronzed and fit from the past week in Spain where he ran a fast 800 metres, reached the bell in 2:40.3 and dug deep into his reserves over the last lap to finish in his record time.

Tipton scratch relaying to St Helens

ST HELENS were the surprise winners of yesterday's Manchester to Blackpool relay, covering 10 stages and 52 miles from Macclesfield Park to Blackpool Tower (a special Correspondent writes). Last year's winners, Tipton Harriers, scratched from the event 24 hours before the start while Salford Harriers, runners-up 12 months ago, fielded a weakened team to finish third behind St Helens and Horwich.

Steve Anders ensured success for the Merseyside club in running the fastest penultimate leg in 34min 28sec. The former national cross country champion, Dave Lewis, of Rossendale, returning after a five-month injury lay-off, was the quickest first leg runner

GYMNASTICS

Thomas is capable of bridging the gap

By Peter Aykroyd

NEIL Thomas, who became overall British champion in March, stands an excellent chance of becoming the first Briton since the renowned Nik Stuart to win a medal at the European championships.

Stuart's triumph was at Paris in 1957 when he won the Silver for the floor exercise. Thomas's opportunity will come at Lussane on Saturday, when he competes in the same discipline, with the firm credentials of a gold medal taken at the recent Commonwealth Games.

Throughout his 12-year career, Thomas has shown an "extraordinary and brilliant talent for the floor exercise and the vault. From his first major senior international tournament, the 1986 Kraft International in London, he has won medals regularly for these two pieces at top level. This year alone, his full-twisting Kasamatsu vault has gained him gold medals at the British championships and the Grand Prix de Paris.

Now aged 22, Thomas is improving his spontaneity, strength and style to become a dynamic all-rounder. This is confirmed by his recent success as top individual at both the British championships and the national men's team competition. John Atkinson, technical director of the British Amateur Gymnastics Association, said yesterday: "Neil is the nearest we have to a Russian gymnast."

Thomas's Celtic origins show themselves in a dark hair, a wiry physique and an engaging quick smile. However, he comes not from Wales but from North West Hampshire, where he took up gymnastics at the age of nine. Then, his involvement consisted of informal training at the local community centre with Wern Gymnastics Club.

In the following year, his outstanding natural ability and special awareness were noted by Mike Weinstein, coach at the leading North Staffs Gymnastics Club at Burton, who named him as a "prodigy". From then until he was 18, Thomas and his parents travelled 70 miles five days a week to enable him to train.

Weinstein had ensured that his protegee mastered basic skills, the foundation of his present virtuosity, elegance and fluency. Within a year, in 1979, Thomas was under 12 British champion, the start of a highly successful career as a junior. He reached the finals of Thames Television's Junior Gymnast of the Year contest four years in a row, finishing second on two occasions.

He became a schoolboy international in 1983 and represented Britain in the European junior championships during the next year and in 1986. For most of 1985, a viral infection in his shoulder prevented him from competing. However, his courage and mental discipline helped him to overcome the setback and other injuries sustained in his career.

Thomas graduated to the senior national squad in 1986, the same year that he moved to the Liverpool School of Physical Education. Brian Stocks, the Liverpool director, said the time: "Neil's talent is barely tapped. He is capable of reaching a world finals on floor."

Thomas himself has that ambition, now that he has won the British title. The 1992 Olympics is his ultimate goal. Last year, he competed at global level at the European and world championships. He has been training for this year's Europeans at Lillleshall National Sports Centre with Eddie Van Hoof, the national coach.

His Liverpool club, where he himself coaches young gymnasts, are looking for £10,000 sponsorship to enable him to reside and train at Lillleshall. When he does train at Liverpool, he has the added benefit of working under Ma Shi, a distinguished Chinese coach who has been instructing there for six months.

After Europe comes the World Cup in October. Whatever event comes up, Neil Thomas is out to reap the rewards for Britain and himself.

EQUESTRIANISM

Nicholson takes over Irish lead

From a Correspondent, Puncnettstown, County Kildare

THE earlier dressage scores were largely irrelevant at the end of the cross-country phase of the Hennessy

Leading golfers put pressure on committee to name course in Spain as choice for 1993 venue

Alliss accuses Ryder Cup players

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Peniza, Portugal

PETER Alliss has launched an astonishing attack on Europe's top golfers for what he calls the "quite disgraceful way they have tried to bulldoze through where the 1993 Ryder Cup should take place".

Alliss accused Severiano Ballesteros of using a "form of blackmail" by suggesting that if the 1993 contest between Europe and the United States is played anywhere other than Spain, his desire will be diluted.

Alliss, speaking here, where he is designing a course for the £50 million Mount Eden project, 40 miles north of Faro, also insisted that Tony Jacklin, the former European captain, was "besotted by Seve" and he claimed that Bernard Gallacher, the new captain, was wrong to announce 10 days ago that the PGA European Tour would be recommending to the Ryder Cup committee that in 1993 the match takes place at Club de Campo,

Madrid. The Ryder Cup committee, chaired by Lord Derby and consisting of three PGA European Tour representatives and three from the Professional Golfers Association, meets on Thursday at Wentworth when a decision is expected on the venue. Carnoustie, Portmarnock, Royal Birkdale, St Mellion and The Belfry are other courses to have applied to stage the most glamorous match in the game.

Alliss, the PGA captain last year and eight times a Ryder Cup player, said: "Bernard Gallacher has told the world with his utterances that his committee has made up its mind and that has put the Ryder Cup committee in an absolutely impossible position. Mind you, greed, ego and player-power come into this somewhere and so does the fact that they are all frightened by Seve."

"It certainly seems that the man intimidates them on and off the course. He's a super fellow but he is only a star of his time just like Sir Henry Cotton was and George Best was. Yet he says the Ryder Cup

should go to Spain. Gallacher announces that they will recommend it goes to Spain and I see that as a form of blackmail. We've got committees to make such decisions; players should not be involved. The Ryder Cup is something special and the irresponsible way that people in high places have banded about where it should be played is, in my opinion, out of order."

"It has made Thursday's meeting nonsense. Whatever decision is taken, someone is going to feel hurt; someone is going to feel snubbed. If it's not Spain then Seve will pick up his bat and go home; Manuel Piñero will probably cut his throat; and José María Cañizares will go off and breed donkeys. They'll close the Costa del Sol and the whole Spanish economy will be ruined."

"The whole thing has done nothing to help the relationship of the PGA and the PGA European Tour. I read, too, that Seve had said that his body — the PGA European Tour — could start their own match and call it the Atlantic Trophy. It's so sad that at a time when they should all

be thanking their lucky stars they are in the right game at the right time, that there should be all this bickering."

"Moreover, if the PGA European Tour thinks so much about Spain then why don't they take the PGA Championship there. That is their jewel in the crown but there is no great crusade to do that. It's just that the PGA European Tour want control of the Ryder Cup just as Deane Neman, the US PGA Tour commissioner, wants to get his hands on it now that it's such a success. Let's face it, the Ryder Cup is a very handsome event."

"We are all entitled to our opinion. Nick Faldo believes the Ryder Cup should go to Royal Birkdale in 1993 and I can understand that because he feels it is the best course. Tony Jacklin, who thought Seve had some magical powers, has campaigned for Spain but I now read he's changed his mind. I think if I were a hard-nosed businessman I wouldn't take it away from The Belfry."

"But what is wrong is that

Gallacher has declared the PGA European Tour's hand ahead of the Ryder Cup committee meeting and by so doing tried to bulldoze a decision through, which is against the spirit of the game. It is also out of order because of all the very genuine tenders made by other venues such as Portmarnock. If the decision has been taken already, then what has been the point of all those venues spending so much money to make their own presentations?"

Alliss is designing with Clive Clark a championship course at Mount Eden, which is situated on the border of the Algarve and the Alentejo provinces. "It's my 46th course and I'm very excited about the project because the concept is so different," Alliss said. "It will be made to look like a village in tranquil countryside."

Alex Murphy, chairman of Anglo European Land, whose project it is, said: "The course will be ready to play in 15 months' time and I expect the entire project, which is already 70 per cent sold, to be complete by 1993."

Group forms body to protect its interests on course

By John Hennessey

A GROUP of golfers has formed the British Golf Heritage (BGH), a body whose aim is to arrest a trend which is systematically closing the opportunities open to the average player.

BGH held a meeting at the Richmond Club over the weekend at which the following statement, by its chairman, Michael Casey, was unanimously approved:

"It is clear that our golf courses and their facilities are a tempting target for predators whose interest is financial gain rather than golf itself."

"BGH has been founded to monitor this threat to British golf, to assess the nature and scale of the problem and to mobilize supporters of the game to combat unwelcome developments."

"Commercial interest in golf has brought considerable benefits and need not always be seen as a threat. But the heritage we enjoy is undeniably vulnerable and vigilance is essential."

"We want to see the development of new golf courses in Britain on a viable basis. However, speculative ad hoc developments will not meet present-day demands at a price that can be afforded."

"A new approach is needed which will entail the participation of the major authorities

in Britain. The key to this is a market structure for new development that will ensure that financial returns are ploughed back into the game itself."

Among the founder members of BGH are Terence Rigby, playwright, Alan Price, musician, David de Ville, former captain of the Wentworth Club, and Dr Robert Price, reader in geography at Glasgow University and a specialist on golf in Scotland.

Casey, a former chief executive of British Shipbuilding, is now a high-powered political lobbyist. Another founder member is Richard Roney, a solicitor, who has undertaken to draw up the articles of association.

Donald McLeod, spokesman for BGH, says that the next move is to carry out a survey of the accessibility of existing golf courses. There were, he explained, two problems.

First was the loss of important courses. Glenageary, for example, was now available only to those who stayed at the hotel. As for Wentworth, if the annual subscription were to rise to £2,600 by 1993, as was proposed, most of the members would leave.

As it was, more than £100 for a day's golf there virtually excluded green-fee golfers. At a less exalted level, corporate

membership "is now wicking the big stick at Camberley Heath."

Second, clubs in the South East were generally suffering great pressure from society and green-fee players. What was needed, McLeod said, was fewer societies, especially as the recent change in weather pattern has brought a deterioration in the condition of so many courses.

The English Golf Union, he recalled, had recently sounded a warning about the poaching of our best greenkeepers by Continental countries, who generally were able to offer substantially higher salaries.

People developing new courses, often property speculators, according to McLeod, claimed to be meeting the demand for general facilities but as they tended to be associated with hotels there was a danger of creating elitism. A reverse trend was noticeable in France, where new courses were subsidized by the government to the tune of 60 per cent in order to bring the game more to the masses.

Basically, "when the individual golfer is confronted by the company cheque book of the multi-national organization in a battle for his membership, few can win. The situation is intolerable. It should be unacceptable."

Strange tunes up for Open

FORT Worth, Texas (Reuters) — Curtis Strange, who defends his US Open title next month, shot his third consecutive below-par round to move into a tie with Ben Crenshaw after three rounds of the Colonial tournament here.

The winds were strong and gusty, making Saturday another difficult day on the Colonial Country Club course, but Strange managed a one-under-par 69 to go with earlier rounds of 68 and 69 to stand at four under-par 206. Crenshaw, after a 69-65 start, dropped to a two-over-par 72.

The left-hander, Russ Cochran, the first-round leader, posted a birdieless 73 for 207, a total he shared with Corey Pavin and Nick Price, of Zimbabwe. Scott Hoch, with a 68, and John Huston were tied at 208.

Strange, without a win on the tour since his US Open triumph, had three birdies and two bogeys on the outward nine and then came in with nine straight pars. "I want to go out and play hard tomorrow," Strange said. "If I make a couple of putts

early, I'll be all right. I don't want to make any mistakes. I want to be precise."

Crenshaw said he had trouble finding his rhythm: "I was trying for the same tempo as I had yesterday [when he shot 65] but I didn't get it." His most recent tour victory was more than two years ago.

"If the wind keeps blowing like this [up to 30 mph] it will be an interesting day tomorrow," he said. "You can't force a birdie on this course."

HOUSTON: Lee Trevino shot a five-under-par 67 for the second consecutive day to increase his lead to four strokes after two rounds of the Doug Sanders Classic, a seniors' tour event.

Trevino's 134 for 36 holes broke the tournament record by three strokes and left him four ahead of Bob Charles and six ahead of George Lanning and Orville Moody, who shot a tournament record 66 in the second round.

Trevino carded four birdies and only one bogey before an eagle on 16 put him at 10 under par. He was three under for the

entire nine.

"I was trying to watch the President play, I wasn't paying any attention to what I was doing," Trevino said. "Forget my 67, him being here made it a great day for everybody."

President George Bush was visiting an area hit by floods and also participated in the tournament. It was an especially good day for Trevino, although it didn't start out that way.

"For a while it looked like I wasn't going to get anything started today and then I birdied three in a row," he said.

Trevino birdied the 5th, 6th, and 7th to put some distance between himself and the field.

Charles birdied five holes to move to second place in the event. He made several long putts, including a 25-footer for a birdie on the 4th hole.

Moody, who used a seven-iron for a hole in one at the 152-yard 4th for an eagle, cut eight strokes off his opening day score of 74 to climb back into contention.

Results, page 37

Farquharson sets tour talk abuzz

By a Special Correspondent

THE long-term effects of Elaine Farquharson's three and two win over Shirley Huggan in the final of the Scottish women's amateur championship at Machrihanish on Saturday may prove of more interest than the immediate, given the new champion's veiled comments about a professional career.

Following the traditional exchange of the winner's brooch on the 16th green of the delightful Kintyre course, Farquharson surreptitiously referred to a possible change in status.

Although unwilling to divulge details, comments such as "I'm

not sure... it's a possibility... it shouldn't be discounted... were sufficient to incite speculation, particularly when coming from Farquharson, a career-minded individual midway through a two-year period of practical training to become a solicitor.

Intent on getting her revenge for last year's semi-final defeat by the same Eastwood international, Farquharson was in no mood to be yet another bridesmaid. Three times a British finalist, never a champion, had stuck in her throat for too long. She took command at the 5th, Huggan putting to put up a steep

hill and not use a wedge, and took a two-hole lead at the long 7th, the notorious "Buck Muir", which Huggan conceded after three attempts to clear a sand dune. Unable to avoid trouble off the tee, Huggan slipped further behind to a par at the 10th and although she had a birdie at the 12th, she took three putts to go back to three behind at the 15th.

The last hole, the 16th, was halved in par, Huggan's misery complete when she missed from two feet.

RESULTS: Final: E Farquharson (Dorridge) 18 H Huggan (Eastwood), 3 and 2.



Agonizing: Crenshaw watches as his putt at the 18th steps on the lip of the hole

Smyth surges to victory by eight strokes

From a Correspondent
Dublin

DES Smyth continued on the birdie trail as he clinched his fourth Smith's Irish PGA championship victory in grand manner at Woodbrook yesterday. Following his course record 65 on Saturday, when he gained a seven-shot lead, he took up yesterday where he had left off to birdie the opening two holes and finally put to rest his own reservations that he could be caught.

Four more birdies followed against the lone concession of a three-putt bogey on the 13th for a 67, five under par, and a total of 271.

He won the £8,000 first prize by eight shots from Jimmy Hegarty.

LEADING SCORES: 271: D Smyth, 70, 68, 67, 67; J Hegarty, 71, 69, 71, 68, 289: C O'Connor, 71, 72, 70, 68, 284: E Dwyer, 72, 69, 70, 68, 286: A O'Connor, 72, 69, 74, 287: D Jones, 72, 73, 75, 292: L Robinson, 73, 73, 76, 71, 294: B McGovern, 72, 74, 74, 74.

Roberts catches eye of Curtis Cup selectors

By Chris Smart

SHARON Roberts, aged 25, the pint-sized left-hander from the Maesdu club in Llandudno, is looking forward more than ever before to the British women's championship at Dunbar next month after winning her third Welsh title at the weekend.

She knows that a good performance over the demanding Scottish links could propel her into the Curtis Cup team to face the United States in New Jersey in late July, although she was not in the Great Britain squad which spent a week in Portugal two months ago.

"I have been knocking on the door for some time and perhaps this win will help me towards a place. I am determined to do well in the British championship as that's going to be very important," Roberts said after beating Helen Wadsworth, a Curtis Cup hopeful, three and two, in the Welsh final at Ashburnham.

Not only did she get the better of the tall and powerful Wadsworth, but earlier the Llandudno player put paid to the hopes of Vicki Thomas, a Curtis Cup regular. The semi-finals were two of the most dramatic matches seen in this championship for years. Roberts was three up with four to play on Thomas but in the end had to get a birdie on the 19th to pull through and Wadsworth was four-up with four remaining on Susan Thomas but was taken to the 21st before surviving.

In the final, Roberts took the lead for the first time at the fifth, went two-up at the 10th and finished the match when her rival failed to get a par three at the short 16th.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: H Wadsworth (Golford University) 18 S Thomas (Maesdu) 19; 3 and 2. (Referee: P Wadsworth, 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 44; 45; 46; 47; 48; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 77; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97; 98; 99; 100; 101; 102; 103; 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 109; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 115; 116; 117; 118; 119; 120; 121; 122; 123; 124; 125; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 132; 133; 134; 135; 136; 137; 138; 139; 140; 141; 142; 143; 144; 145; 146; 147; 148; 149; 150; 151; 152; 153; 154; 155; 156; 157; 158; 159; 160; 161; 162; 163; 164; 165; 166; 167; 168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173; 174; 175; 176; 177; 178; 179; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 187; 188; 189; 190; 191; 192; 193; 194; 195; 196; 197; 198; 199; 200; 201; 202; 203; 204; 205; 206; 207; 208; 209; 210; 211; 212; 213; 214; 215; 216; 217; 218; 219; 220; 221; 222; 223; 224; 225; 226; 227; 228; 229; 230; 231; 232; 233; 234; 235; 236; 237; 238; 239; 240; 241; 242; 243; 244; 245; 246; 247; 248; 249; 250; 251; 252; 253; 254; 255; 256; 257; 258; 259; 260; 261; 262; 263; 264; 265; 266; 267; 268; 269; 270; 271; 272; 273; 274; 275; 276; 277; 278; 279; 280; 281; 282; 283; 284; 285; 286; 287; 288; 289; 290; 291; 292; 293; 294; 295; 296; 297; 298; 299; 300; 301; 302; 303; 304; 305; 306; 307; 308; 309; 310; 311; 312; 313; 314; 315; 316; 317; 318; 319; 320; 321; 322; 323; 324; 325; 326; 327; 328; 329; 330; 331; 332; 333; 334; 335; 336; 337; 338; 339; 340; 341; 342; 343; 344; 345; 346; 347; 348; 349; 350; 351; 352; 353; 354; 355; 356; 357; 358; 359; 360; 361; 362; 363; 364; 365; 366; 367; 368; 369; 370; 371; 372; 373; 374; 375; 376; 377; 378; 379; 380; 381; 382; 383; 384; 385; 386; 387; 388; 389; 390; 391; 392; 393; 394; 395; 396; 397; 398; 399; 400; 401; 402; 403; 404; 405; 406; 407; 408; 409; 410; 411; 412; 413; 414; 415; 416; 417; 418; 419; 420; 421; 422; 423; 424; 425; 426; 427; 428; 429; 430; 431; 432; 433; 434; 435; 436; 437; 438; 439; 440; 441; 442; 443; 444; 445; 446; 447; 448; 449; 450; 451; 452; 453; 454; 455; 456; 457; 458; 459; 460; 461; 462; 463; 464; 465; 466; 467; 468; 469; 470; 471; 472; 473; 474; 475; 476; 477; 478; 479; 480; 481; 482; 483; 484; 485; 486; 487; 488; 489; 490; 491; 492; 493; 494; 495; 496; 497; 498; 499; 500; 501; 502; 503; 504; 505; 506; 507; 508; 509; 510; 511; 512; 513; 514; 515; 516; 517; 518; 519; 520; 521; 522; 523; 524; 525; 526; 527; 528; 529; 530; 531; 532; 533; 534; 535; 536; 537; 538; 539; 540; 541; 542; 543; 544; 545; 546; 547; 548; 549; 550; 551; 552; 553; 554; 555; 556; 557; 558; 559; 560; 561; 562; 563; 564; 565; 566; 567; 568; 569; 570; 571; 572; 573; 574; 575; 576; 577; 578; 579; 580; 581; 582; 583; 584; 585; 586; 587; 588; 589; 590; 591; 592; 593; 594; 595; 596; 597; 598; 599; 600; 601; 602; 603; 604; 605; 606; 607; 608; 609; 610; 611; 612; 613; 614; 615; 616; 617; 618; 619; 620; 621; 622; 623; 624; 625; 626; 627; 628; 629; 630; 631; 632; 633; 634; 635; 636; 637; 638; 639; 640; 641; 642; 643; 644; 645; 646; 647; 648; 649; 650; 651; 652; 653; 654; 655; 656; 657; 658; 659; 660; 661; 662; 663; 664; 665; 666; 667; 668; 669; 670; 671; 672; 673; 674; 675; 676; 677; 678; 679; 680; 681; 682; 683; 684; 685; 686; 687; 688; 689; 690; 691; 692; 693; 694; 695; 696; 697; 698; 699; 700; 701; 702; 703; 704; 705; 706; 707; 708; 709; 710; 711; 712; 713; 714; 715; 716; 717; 718; 719; 720; 721; 722; 723; 724; 725; 726; 727; 728; 729; 730; 731; 732; 733; 734; 735; 736; 737; 738; 739; 740; 741; 742; 743; 744; 745; 746; 747; 748; 749; 750; 751; 752; 753; 754; 755; 756; 757; 758; 759; 760; 761; 762; 763; 764; 765; 766; 767; 768; 769; 770; 771; 772; 773; 774; 775; 776; 777; 778; 779; 780; 781; 782; 783; 784; 785; 786; 787; 788; 789; 790; 791; 792; 793; 794; 795; 796; 797; 798; 799; 800; 801; 802; 803; 804; 805; 806; 807; 808; 809; 810; 811; 812; 813; 814; 815; 816; 817; 818; 819; 820; 821; 822; 823; 824; 825; 826; 827; 828; 829; 830; 831; 832; 833; 834; 835; 836; 837; 838; 839; 840; 841; 842; 843; 844; 845; 846; 847; 848; 849; 850; 851; 852; 853; 854; 855; 856; 857; 858; 859; 860; 861; 862; 863; 864; 865; 866; 867; 868; 869; 870; 871; 872; 873; 874; 875; 876; 877; 878; 879; 880; 881; 882; 883; 884; 885; 886; 887; 888; 889; 890; 891; 892; 893; 894; 895; 896; 897; 898; 899; 900; 901; 902; 903; 904; 905; 906; 907; 908; 909; 910; 911; 912; 913; 914; 915; 916; 917; 918; 919; 920; 921; 922; 923; 924; 925; 926; 927; 928; 929; 930; 931; 932; 933; 934; 935; 936; 937; 938; 939; 940; 941; 942; 943; 944; 945; 946; 947; 948; 949; 950; 951; 952; 953; 954; 955; 956; 957; 958; 959; 960; 961; 962; 963; 964; 965; 966; 967; 968; 969; 970; 971; 972; 973; 974; 975; 976; 977; 978; 979; 980; 981; 982; 983; 984; 985; 986; 987; 988; 989; 990; 991; 992; 993; 994; 995; 996; 997; 998; 999; 1000.

In the Channel Handicap — still the best supported of the three handicap systems being used by the RORC — Jessa-Yves

struggled to find enough breeze to log a meagre 40 miles in 24 hours in the Western Approaches, the strong northerlies nearer home led Edward Symon's Sadler Barra-Luna Mary Noelle, from Royal Lynton & Ymington YC, lead the 62 yachts of the RORC fleet in just over 12 hours to average in excess of eight knots. The race on the Cherbourg peninsula gave the lighter boats their chance. Speeds of 18 knots were logged.

In the Channel Handicap — still the best supported of the three handicap systems being used by the RORC — Jessa-Yves

Cowes to the Needles, with even the smallest boats hitting 10 knots. Then came a long windward slog to EC3, the east-going flood in the Channel building steep, flat-sided seas to test both yachts and crews. This was the leg which suited the relatively heavy Sunstones while the sleeker Farr 40 saved sufficient time on the Bermuda to take handicap honours, but Farr's name can be entered in the prize list. He has named her after his business.

RESULTS: 185 division: 1, Sunstone (7 and 1 Jackson, SAS one-off), 2, Aprion (1 and 1 Jackson, SAS one-off), 3, Imperator (P Wadsworth, 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 44; 45; 46; 47; 48; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 7

But Rameez Raja, with 68, and Imran Khan, with 37, shared an 89-run partnership to ensure the other Americas Cup would be shared.
SCORES: Australia 126 (30.5 overs); Pakistan 127 for six (32).

Lessons from a Wasim injury

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

shire. Yesterday, he finally appeared for the first team in the shire, although the competitions in Arab and American states mean that he is still within the same, though favours by playing overseas. The attractions of the North American circuit became evident.

Fraser's departure exposes England

two things — England's increased dependence on him and their lack of suitable alternatives. It was always a gamble to include the Middlesex seamer, but only one match into his comeback from a rib injury, and when he felt a reaction on Saturday morning it was eminently sensible that he should be longer-term players, including six of the match this summer, ahead of this week's two one-day internationals.

On the face of it, Devon Malcolm was an obvious replacement, as the emergent batsman, who has not yet been tour. He has, however, never been thought accurate enough for one-day cricket.

Derbyshire and Kent on top Richards silences his critics

Westershire. Their 471 for four was doubtless scored with a vengeance, for they are still stung by the docking of 25 points at Southend last year which led, effectively, to Worcestershire becoming county champions at their expense. The 1947 season was a 166 by Mark Waugh, who must surely play Test cricket for Australia soon.

Broad made a century for Nottinghamshire against Warwickshire, who lead the county with their two victories in their two matches to date. It was a century, too, for Morris for Derbyshire against Somerset. Perennially a player of promise; he may yet ascend to greater things. His captain, Barnett, made 94, putting on 171 with him for the second victory.

YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

Worcs v Essex

WORCESTER (Essex won toss; first day of tour): Worcestershire, with nine first-runners in hand, are 421 runs behind Essex

ESSEX: First Innings

A G Cooch c Rhodes b Newport ... 151
J S Stephenson c Curtis b Reardon ... 4
P J Pritchard run out ... 29
P C Waugh not out ... 69
B Hards c D Gilchrist b Bottom ... 15
Nadrem Shahid not out ... 26
Extras (lb 4, nb 10) ... 24
Total (1 wicket, 20 overs) ... 421

R D Pringle, M A Gammon, A Foster, J Dopley and J Chads did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-136, 3-225, 4-392.

BOWLING: Newport 1-0-1-75-0; Lampford 1-56-1; Day 1-9-85-1; Rampford 15-55-2; Hards 1-1-23-0; Gilchrist 14-45-0; Weston 1-1-23-0.

WORCESTER: First Innings

T S Curtis not out ... 19
M J Weston c Cooch b Foster ... 10
K R Nisgworth ... 10
Extras (lb 1, wd 1) ... 2
Total (1 wicket, 7 overs) ... 26

R B Gilbert, D B D Gilchrist, S B Lampford, T S J Rhodes, J Newport, N Rampford and R D Dopley to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-5.

Bonus points: Worcestershire 1, Essex 4. Unhappy: S Dudson and P B Wright.

Gloucs v Zimbabwe

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss; first day of three): Zimbabweans, with all first-runners in hand, are 222 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

P J Butcher c Robertson b Brent ... 76
D G Miller c Traverses b Brent ... 128
M W Alynne not out ... 29
C W J White not out ... 7
P E Smith c Traverses b Brent ... 2
Extras (lb 4, lb 8, nb 2) ... 15
Total (3 wickets dead, 26 overs) ... 257

K M Curran, W J Lloyd, T G Tadsions, O A Greeney, S N Barnes, D V Lawrence did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-170, 2-225, 3-255.

BOWLING: Brentides 12-3-3-62; Jarvis 9-5-3-40; Traverses 17-4-23-0; Dolphin 13-2-88-1; Smith 13-2-25-2.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

W R Barnes not out ... 24
A H Shah not out ... 24
Extras (lb 1, wd 1) ... 4
Total (no wicket) ... 48

C M Robertson, A J Poynter, T G A Greeney, J P Butcher, E A Brandes, M J Smith, J Dopley, J Chads to bat.

Unhappy: J D Bone and J Julien.

● **ALAN McNish, aged 20,** won the International Trophy, Formula 3,000 race on Saturday, just five weeks after his involvement in a horrific

Wright sweating on his place in England's squad

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

MARK Wright is limping towards the cruellest disappointment for the second time in four years. In 1986 his hopes of being included in England's World Cup squad were shattered when he broke a leg at White Hart Lane. Now his chances have been damaged by a severely bruised thigh.

The fate of Derby County's central defender rests largely on the outcome of this morning's training session, after which Bobby Robson, the England manager, is scheduled to announce his 22 chosen men as well as his line-up for the farwell fixture against Uruguay tomorrow night.

Wright is officially still considered "doubtful" for both parties. "He did not do enough to satisfy me that he is 100 per cent fit," the England manager said yesterday.

"We made him train because we wanted to see how he is and he's still slightly restricted. The next 24 hours are significant but the problem is difficult to gauge because it is muscular."

If Wright can convince the England doctor, physiotherapist, manager and himself that his wound will soon heal, he will leave on Friday with the rest of the World Cup squad. If not, Adams, the lone possible survivor among seven

Arsenal representatives to have been selected over the past two years, will be invited instead.

"Wright is the one nagging doubt," Bobby Robson conceded yesterday. So far, that is. The three other squad members about to be eliminated — Beasant, Rocastle and Smith — are not necessarily out of contention. The back door could be re-opened by the Uruguayans, who are notorious for their ill-discipline and ruthlessness.

The timing of the potentially dangerous fixture, the last before England set off on their mission, appeared ill-advised when it was first announced. On Friday the choice of opposition became even more regrettable. The Uruguayans, contrary to the apparent wishes of their manager, seem not to have changed their crude ways.

The complaints about their physical ruggedness, heard in Belfast since Northern Ireland's narrow victory, echo the sentiments expressed by the Scots. The victims of cynical brutality during the 1986 World Cup, they have since refused to entertain the Uruguayans who have twice provisionally been asked to compete in the Rous Cup.

Bobby Robson, eager to test his strongest side against opponents who would attract

a crowd big enough to sound an appropriate fanfare, remains convinced that the inherent risks are acceptable.

He still intends to play the team most likely to line up against the Republic of Ireland in the opening World Cup tie in Cagliari on June 11. It will show probably only one change from those who last Tuesday extended the unbeaten sequence to 17 games.

Bryan Robson, unavailable then because of the FA Cup final replay, will replace McMahon, who conceded possession more readily than anyone against the Danes. The reappearance of the captain will be a source of comfort especially for Gascoigne, who must only avoid irresponsible errors to be assured of starting the tournament.

Webb was convincing enough, and courageous enough, during Manchester United's FA Cup triumph over Crystal Palace to erase any doubts in Bobby Robson's mind that he could play an active part in Italy. Nevertheless, after an absence of seven months, he must rediscover "the zip" before he can reclaim his central midfield role.

Waddle, though visibly suffering from the physical and mental exhaustion required to lift Marselles to the French title, will keep his place. So will Barnes, not on the wing but again as the striking partner for Lineker. Bobby Robson believes that he saw sufficient flashes of a potentially productive spearhead.

The defence will be retained, as it has been almost exclusively throughout the last 18 months. The speed and



Best foot forward: Rutherford goes down the pitch during the New Zealanders' match at Lord's yesterday

The Wright way to success

By John Woodcock

LORDS (second day of three): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 112 runs ahead of the New Zealanders

THE New Zealanders are being made to work for what they get by Middlesex at Lord's. Yesterday, in reply to Middlesex's 332 for six declared, they declared themselves at 284 for five, the depth of their batting coming in handy. Wright closed their innings with 85 minutes left and an eye on a run-chase today.

Middlesex bowled pretty nicely. Hughes was given plenty to do, which he would have enjoyed, and there was a first chance for a tall young George, Martin Thurstield, a member of the MCC groundstaff whom Middlesex are having a look at.

He bowled sensibly at medium pace, and will have done himself no harm. Paul Weekes, another from the groundstaff, bowled some presentable off-breaks. Like Thurstield he is 19 and was making his first-class debut. For these two, then, it was a day to remember.

For the touring side it was one well spent. On pitches as good as this England will need to bowl well to get them out twice. There can be no doubt about that. The younger of them have learnt from Wright, their captain, to sniff the ball when they play it. Wright really is very good now.

Yesterday he had made 54 out of 77, solidly yet forcefully, when he slashed Hughes to gully.

With Martin Crowe soon being caught at the wicket, aiming to force Tufnell through the off side, responsibility fell upon the Rutherford and the Greatbatches and the Joneses to get some runs, and they did so. Jones had the hardest struggle of them, his 41 taking 24 hours. He never quite found his timing, though the way he did hit one or two half volleys showed what he can do.

Greatbatch, one of five left-handers in this present side, was quickly into his stride. England are not going to like bowling at all these left-handers. They found Mark Taylor troublesome enough last summer, and Wright plays in the same sort of way.

Greatbatch, in fact, can play both games: his match-saving hundred against Australia in Perth during the winter was a monumental effort. Now he looked for runs, though he was out playing no stroke to a ball that may have come back at him up the hill.

By three o'clock Rutherford and Priest had embarked on an unbroken partnership of 114, full of good batting. One stroke of Rutherford's a cover drive off Hughes, hit on the up against the new ball, was the best of the day. By the time Wright declared Priest, too, was going well. While the Edrich and Compton stands are being built the straight boundary to the Nursery End is some yards short of what it normally is, a factor which contributed towards an output from the day's 104 overs of 345 runs.

There was a goodish crowd and enough sunshine to send them home with a flush on them. When Middlesex went in again they saw Hadlee take a spectacular right-handed catch in the gully to send back Roseberry, first ball. The last three balls of the same over all went for four and gave

Ramprakash the confidence to play nicely. Haynes went marching on, though not without surviving the sharpest of slip chances off Hadlee.

MIDDLESEX First Innings
D L Haynes bow b Hadlee 161
M A Roseberry c Rutherford b Snedden 91
M R Ramprakash c Hadlee b Snedden 21
K R Brown bow b Snedden 21
R O Butcher bow b Snedden 21
P R Downton not out 57
P H Weekes bow b Snedden 19
Extras (lb 14, nb 5) 19
Total (8 wickets dec) 332

Second Innings
D L Haynes not out 25
M A Roseberry c Hadlee b Morrison 26
M R Ramprakash not out 36
Extras (lb 1, nb 5) 6
Total (1 wicket) 64

NEW ZEALAND First Innings
J J Crowe c Downton b Comans 14
J J Crowe c Downton b Hughes 13
M J Gower c Downton b Tufnell 53
A H Jones bow b Hughes 44
K R Brown not out 44
K R Rutherford not out 68
M W Priest not out 51
Extras (lb 7, nb 1) 8
Total (5 wickets dec) 284

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-98, 3-159, 4-161, 5-286, 6-332.

BOWLING: Hadlee 22-3-78-1; Morrison 22-1-100-2; Snedden 27-5-63-5; Priest 22-7-7-0.

Umpires: J C Balderson and N T Plews.

Irish warn Robson to fear the worst

By George Ace

NORTHERN Ireland's unexpected 1-0 win over Uruguay at the weekend would, at first glance, imply no significant threat from the South Americans to England's impressive unbeaten run of 17 matches when the teams meet tomorrow night at Wembley.

But, on the evidence of what happened at Windsor Park on Friday night, Bobby Robson, the England manager, will be extremely relieved if he still has a full squad at his disposal for Italy.

Kevin Wilson, who scored Northern Ireland's winner put it succinctly. "England had better check their shinguards before the match," he said.

Oscar Tabarez, the Uruguay manager, was at pains to emphasize that the bad days of Uruguayan football were over and his team would play "controlled and disciplined football", which they did for the first 45 minutes. It was only when they went behind that Uruguay started to dis-

play any real urgency and then frustration.

Discipline gave way to crunched tackles which bordered on the uncouth — one on Kingsley Black which felled the Luton winger was animal-like in its execution. Further examples of body-checking, pushing, shoving and persistent niggling off the ball all served to confirm that the tarnished reputation gained over the years by Uruguay still deserves to accompany them.

If Uruguay fall behind at Wembley, they will, almost certainly, revert to the strong-arm tactics, which will do nothing for Robson's blood pressure.

That Uruguay can play football is not in doubt — they led West Germany 3-1 a few weeks ago before conceding two late goals — but ruffle their feathers, as the Northern Irish did, and you change the complexion of the match.

Beasant, through lack of opportunity, Rocastle, through injury, and Smith, through loss of form, were unable to surpass their closest rivals, Seaman, Steven and Bull respectively. Although Wright has been picked only once (briefly as a substitute) since the 1988 European championship, he would ideally be preferred to Adams because he has already performed in the finals of an international competition.

Robson's probable squad for Italy would be: Goalkeepers: P Shilton, C Woods, D Seaman; defenders: G Stevens, P Parker, D Walker, T Butcher, M Wright (or A Adams), S Pearce, A Dorog; midfielders: C Waddle, T Steven, N Webb, B Robson, P Gascoigne, S McMahon, S Hodge; forwards: P Beardsley, G Lineker, S Bull, D Platt, J Barnes.

ENGLAND (v Uruguay, probable): P Shilton (Derby County); D Seaman (Preston); D Walker (Nottingham Forest); T Butcher (Preston); C Waddle (Nottingham Forest); C Waddle (Nottingham Forest); P Gascoigne (Tottenham Hotspur); B Robson (Manchester United); S Hodge (Nottingham Forest); G Lineker (Tottenham Hotspur); J Barnes (Liverpool).

Bravo Boxall, the gran turismo cavalier

From Mel Webb, Monza

RICHARD Boxall held his first, and more important, nerve to become the first English winner of the PGA European Tour season when he took the Italian Open title here yesterday.

Boxall, aged 29, built the launch-pad for his eventual total of 267, 21 under par, with two record-breaking rounds to lead on each of the first two days. Take-off was delayed on the third day, although his 70 was good enough to put him clear by five shots going into the final round.

But, having lit the blue touchpaper, he left the rest standing well clear of the sparks with a final round of 68 to win by five strokes from José Maria Olazábal, whose threatened challenge turned out to be something of a damp

squib. The young Spaniard, who also came in with a 68, none the less took his earnings in the last five weeks to almost £113,000.

Boxall knows only one way to play the game — boldly and aggressively — and there was no pulling back when he was on the brink of easily the finest performance of his career.

He birdied the first two holes on a cloudy final day, producing a splendid up-and-down from a downhill lie in a bunker at the 1st and then holing a putt of fully 60 feet on the 2nd. It was just as well he did — Olazábal saved shots on each of the same two holes as well.

Eduardo Romero, who partnered the two leaders, was no more than a rather elegant spectator as Olazábal dropped a shot at the 3rd when he missed a two-foot putt, and

the Argentinian's birdie three on the 6th passed almost unnoticed as the two main players in the piece dropped shots by missing five-foot putts.

Boxall, clad in a shirt of a particularly bilious yellow, got a standing ovation when he sank an eight-footer for his third birdie of the day on the 7th, and there was another for Olazábal when he put his second shot within a couple of feet of the pin on the next. "Bravo, bravo," from a thousand Italian voices has a certain ring to it when compared with the "Great shot, my son" he might have heard from certain voices in the gallery practically anywhere in his native land.

So Boxall led by six at the turn. He had said the previous day that he would not win the tournament until the final

nine holes of the final round but in the event he almost had the winner's £50,000 cheque in his grasp by the time he stepped on to the 10th tee.

The final battle to be won was with his nerve and that he held out magnificently. He rattled in 25-foot putts on the 13th and 15th.

"I was nervous all week," Boxall said, as he sipped a totally inappropriate bottle of mineral water when it was all over. "I woke up at six o'clock every morning with my stomach going like a tumble-drier." If he goes on producing performances like this, he will soon be able to stop taking in the washing.

FINAL SCORES: (British unless stated): 267: Boxall 68, 69, 70, 68, 272; J Olazábal (Spain) 69, 69, 68, 68, 274; E Romero (Argentina) 72, 68, 68, 68, 277; J Barnes (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; P Gascoigne (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; S Hodge (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; T Butcher (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; D Walker (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; C Woods (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; P Shilton (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; K Brown (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; M Wright (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; A Dorog (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; S Pearce (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; G Stevens (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; D Seaman (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; J Barnes (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; P Shilton (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; C Woods (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; D Seaman (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; G Stevens (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; D Walker (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; T Butcher (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; M Wright (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; A Dorog (England) 71, 71, 71, 71, 284; 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